THE NEW
SUNDAY EXPRESS

BENGALURU • SUNDAY • MARCH 09, 2025 • ₹12.00 • PAGES 26 • LATE CITY EDITION

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

Women trailblazers take over PM's social media

On International Women's Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's social media handles were taken over by a group of extraordinary women who have excelled in diverse fields. Chess grandmaster R Vaishali, farmer-entrepreneur Anita Devi, nuclear scientist Elina Mishra, space scientist Shilpi Soni, accessibility advocate Anjlee Agarwal and rural entrepreneur Ajaita Shah shared their journeys, highlighting the power of India's 'Nari Shakti' | P9

A vehicle set on fire by protesters in Kangpokpi district on Saturday | PTI

MANIPUR ERUPTS AMID BID TO RESTORE FREE MOVEMENT

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @Guwahati

CLASHES broke out in Manipur's Kuki-majority Kangpokpi district on Saturday as the Centre tried to restore free movement for people on all roads in the ethnic violence-hit state. Over a dozen protesters were injured, one of whom reportedly succumbed to injuries. The protesters attacked a state-run bus and torched at least one private vehicle.

At a high-level Manipur security review meeting held in New Delhi on March 1, Union home minister Amit Shah had issued directions to restore free movement and take action against anyone attempting to create obstructions.

Acting on that directive, the Manipur State Transport (MST) operated two buses, one on the Imphal-Kangpokpi-Senapati route and another on the Imphal-Bishnupur-Churachandpur route, with security cover by personnel of the Central Armed Police Forces.

Similarly, the Federations of Civil Society (FOCS), a conglomerate of 20 Imphal Valley-based organisations, took out a peace expedition from Imphal to go to Senapati which is a Naga-majority district. The participants, who were travelling in some vehicles, were stopped at Sekmai in the Imphal West district by security forces and they returned to Imphal.

Meanwhile, crowds were building in different parts of Kangpokpi district to thwart the march by FOCS and the movement of the MST bus. They erected barricades on a highway by putting boulders and burning tyres.

When the MST bus entered Kangpokpi district, the protesters attempted to prevent its movement by pelting stones. This led to a confrontation and the security personnel used force to restore normalcy leading to clashes. The other MST bus travelled up to Kangvai, a small town in Kuki-majority Churachandpur district bordering Meitei-majority Bishnupur district, and returned.

Dealing with US push in agri market

JAYANTH JACOB @New Delhi

AS India and the US begin trade talks, New Delhi has conveyed that it has been reducing applied tariffs in agreements with developed countries, while emphasising a "mutually beneficial" approach and "sensitive handling of sectors like agriculture", a key focus of the Trump administration in seeking greater market access.

A team of Indian officials, led by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal visited Washington from March 3 to 6 and engaged the US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer and their teams. President Donald Trump said India has agreed to cut its tariffs "way down now" because somebody is finally "exposing" them, evoking sharp reactions from opposition parties in the country.

Reducing "average applied tariff significantly" has been a key aspect of India's recently concluded mutually beneficial bilateral trade agreements with a slew of developed countries such as Australia, the UAE, Switzerland, Norway and the ongoing talks with the European Union and United Kingdom. But the "tone and substance of the talks" and "understanding each others' concerns to get to an agreement" is the new focus. "The teams will now get into sector wise, issue-wise specifics," said a source.

Asked about various statements coming out of Washington on tariffs and trade negotiations, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said at a press briefing: "We have in recent times entered into bilateral trade agreements based on tariff liberalisation with several partners.... The ongoing discussions should be seen in that context." Trump's tariff against India rolls out April 2.

RAHUL
'CONG MOLES AIDING BJP'
Warning leaders in Gujarat, the MP said the Congress is prepared to sack up to 40 members if needed to cleanse the party in the BJP-dominated state | P10

Koppal rape: 2 held, tourist's body found

AMIT S UPADHYE @Koppal

THE body of Odisha tourist **Bibash**, 22, who was pushed into the Tungabhadra canal along with two others at Sanapur village in Koppal district on Thursday night, was found on Saturday near the power grid house.

Koppal police have arrested two of the three accused of assaulting and raping two women, including a foreign national. They have also been charged with murdering Bibash.

Four tourists, including two foreigners, and a homestay owner were attacked by the accused near the canal at Sanapur on Thursday night.

SP Ram Arasiddi said the arrested have been identified as Mallesha alias Handi Mallesha, 22, a mason from Sai Nagar, Gangavati, and Chetan Sai, 21, a labourer. Efforts are on to nab the third accused.

He said the accused used to go on long rides at night after consuming alcohol. After seeing the tourists on Thursday night, they stopped their bikes and demanded money. This led to an argument and the accused attacked the group. They pushed the men into the canal and allegedly raped the two women. Mallesha and Sai confessed to the crime, he said.

HEINOUS CRIME, SAYS CM: P5

Unbeaten India's one final push for desert glory

GOMESH S @Chennai

IN sports, more often than not, history is written by winners. No matter what a team does or how far a team progresses in a tournament, holding aloft the trophy defines it. No other team knows this better than India. In the last three ICC white ball tournaments, India have reached the final three times, lost one and won one. How the third final against New Zealand in the ICC Champions Trophy would end will be known on Sunday night. The win will also lay to rest the controversies surrounding the scheduling.

One thing, however, is clear that the brand of cricket India are playing is something unique. One that head coach Gautam Gambhir spoke about from the moment he took over: winning brand of cricket, a philosophy they would want to follow. India, however, have not been able to live up to it. Home series loss after 12 years, Border-Gavaskar Trophy loss after ten years have added pressure. A victory in Dubai is ever more important. The opponents on Sunday are New Zealand, the team India had beaten in the Group stages. The Black Caps have troubled India before and going by the records India should not slumber into complacency. P13

EXPERIENCE A FIT THAT FEELS LIKE A SECOND SKIN!
Inners for Winners
RAMRAJ
VESTS
BRIEFS • TRUNKS
Available at Ramraj Showrooms & All Leading Textile Shops

EXPRESS READ

Woman held for killing baby over blind belief

Koppal: A woman has been arrested over the death of her baby in Koppal after she burned it with incense sticks in the blind belief that it will cure it of sickness | P5

Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Sri D.K.Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Last chance for Property Tax Defaulters to save penalty!
PAY BEFORE 31ST MARCH 2025
Pay @ https://bbmptax.karnataka.gov.in
You have SAS Application No but not paid property tax then from 01.4.2025 you will have to pay 100% Penalty.
Your tax liability will almost double
ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE
Tax Payable before March 31st
• Property Tax of 2023-24 : Rs.25,000/-
• Interest : Rs.6,000/-
• Penalty : Rs. 100/-
Total Tax Payable : Rs. 31,100/- (Until 31.03.2025)
Tax Payable after March 31st
• Property Tax of 2023-24 : Rs.25,000/-
• Interest : Rs.6,000/-
• Penalty : Rs.18,500/-
Total Tax Payable : Rs. 49,500/- (After 01.04.2025)
PAY IMMEDIATELY & GET BENEFIT
One City - One Number
Universal BBMP Grievance Helpline 1533

ATTENTION LIC POLICYHOLDERS
Time to Reap your
Rewards
JUST UPDATE
BANK DETAILS!
Your Policy Money could be waiting for you
Claim your Policy Money in 2 simple steps
» Update your Bank Details » Submit your KYC
Our WhatsApp No. 8976862090 Say 'Hi'
Download LIC Mobile App
Visit: licindia.in
Call Centre Services (022) 6827 6827
Follow us : LIC India Forever | IRDAI Regn No.: 512
For details, contact your Agent/Nearest LIC Branch or SMS YOUR CITY NAME to 56767474
*Can also be done online, Conditions apply
BEWARE OF SPURIOUS PHONE CALLS AND FICTITIOUS / FRAUDULENT OFFERS. IRDAI or its officials do not involve in any activities of insurance business like selling insurance policies, announcing bonus or investment of premiums, refund of amounts. Policyholders or the prospects receiving such phone calls are requested to lodge a police complaint. For more details on risk factors, terms and conditions, please read sales brochure carefully before concluding a sale.
LIC
भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम
LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA
Har Pal Aapke Saath
LIC/P1/2024-25/51/Eng

THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS | BRIGHTSIDE

02 BENGALURU | SUNDAY 09.03.2025 | newindianexpress.com

ALMANAC TODAY

• **Sunday:** 09.03.2025 • **Year:** Krodhi • **Ayana:** Uttarayana • **Ritu:** Sishira • **Masa:** Phalguna • **Paksha:** Shukla • **Tithi:** Dasami 10.38 am • **Nakshatra:** Punarvasu 2.11 am • Moon in Mithuna Rashi • **Rahukaala:** 04:30 pm to 06:00 pm • **Gulikakala:** 03:00 pm to 04:30 pm • **Yamaganda:** 12:00 pm to 01:30 pm

WEATHER | MIN 17°C | MAX 34°C | **FORECAST** Partly cloudy

Sunrise 06.31 am | Sunset 06.29 pm | Moonrise 14.25 pm | Moonset 02.51 am

PICS: VINOD KUMAR T AND SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

'THE HAND THAT ROCKS THE CRADLE, RULES THE WORLD'

Bharatinagar Residents' Forum honours women auto/cab drivers, security guards, BBMP pourakarmikas, and vegetable vendors as part of International Women's Day. Sarees and books were also distributed to underprivileged women and children.

An all-woman railway crew was deployed for the Mysore-Malgudi train at KSR Railway Station in Bengaluru on Saturday

Women check out jute baskets at an exhibition, organised by the Department of Women and Child Welfare, in Bengaluru, on Saturday

A group of women shield themselves from the blazing sun in Bengaluru on Saturday

An all-woman crew was deployed to operate Air India Express' Mangaluru-Muscat flight as part of the airline's International Women's Day celebrations

President of Adarsha Auto Drivers' Union Manjunath and General Secretary Dr C Sampath honour women auto drivers, nurses, police constables and teachers

Two women wave from the ladies' compartment of the Mysore-Malgudi train at KSR Railway Station. The compartment was decorated with colourful balloons to welcome women passengers

There is no limit to what we, as women, can accomplish

– Michelle Obama

I raise my voice—not so I can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard

– Malala Yousafzai

Women have always been the backbone of society, transforming houses into homes, breaking barriers and standing tall in every sphere of life, despite hardships. From nurturing families to leading industries, they continue to shape the world. As we celebrate International Women's Day this year, let us honour the women around us - the achievers, the caregivers, and those who stand like a rock.

Min: Women shoulder greater responsibilities than men

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

WOMEN shoulder greater responsibilities than men, balancing personal and professional duties. They are the epitome of self-respect and are making significant strides in every field, said Women and Child Welfare Minister **Laxmi Hebbalkar.**

She was speaking at the International Women's Day event organised by the department of women and child welfare on Saturday, during which a total of 20 women achievers and six organisations, were honoured with Kittur Rani Chennamma Awards for their contribution to women's development.

The minister highlighted the crucial role women play in families, society, and workforce. "Women do not back out from their responsibilities. They successfully manage multiple roles, both at home and outside. Every woman has a story of perseverance behind her success," she said and urged women to set clear goals and work towards them, stating that a life without direction is unproductive. Citing former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi as an inspiration, she noted how Indira Gandhi, despite being born into a wealthy family, dedicated her life to public service. She also praised Kittur Rani Chennamma as a symbol of courage.

The minister highlighted various welfare initiatives by the Women and Child Development Department, which currently supports 37 lakh children and 15 lakh mothers in the state. She also mentioned the recent increase in honorariums for Anganwadi workers and assured further hikes in the future.

2 locations identified for second Int'l Airport

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru/Vijayapura

MINISTER for Commerce & Industries, Infrastructure MB Patil announced on Saturday that a proposal for a second international airport in Bengaluru has been submitted to the Airports Authority of India (AAI).

"Two potential sites have been identified- one on Nelamangala-Kunigal Road and another on Kanakapura Road. Both locations are around 50 kilometre from the heart of the city. While one is 10km from Nelamangala-Hassan Highway Junction, the other is 10km away from Kanakapura Road-NICE Road Junction," he revealed.

Further, he said that both the locations are adjacent to major national highways connecting Bengaluru. "Besides, the terminal stations of the existing Metro network are only a few kilometres away. Considering these factors, we have identified these two places," he justified and said that a proposal has already been sent to the Airports Authority of India in this regard, following which officials will inspect and give their consent. Patil emphasised that feasibility studies will be conducted.

CATEGORY: ASIAN CINEMA COMPETITION

Best film	Second best film	Third best film	Jury award -	Jury award
In the land of brothers (Persian) - **Director:** Raha Amirfazli and Alireza Ghasemi	Reading Lolita in Tehran (Farsi) - **Director:** Eran Rikli	Saba (Bengali) **Director:** Maksud Hossain	Feminichi Fathima (Malayalam) **Director :** Fasil Muhammed	Pyre (Hindi) **Director :** Vinod Kapri

Category : Indian Cinema Competition

Best film - Humans in the loop (Hindi) - **Director:** Aranya Sahay

Second best film - Level cross (Malayalam) - **Director:** Arfaz Ayub

Third best film - Swaha (Magahi) - **Director:** Abhilash Sharma

Category : Kannada Cinema Competition

First best film - Mikka Bannada Hakki - **Director:** Manohara K

Seconf best film - Pidayi (Tulu) - **Director:** Santhosh Mada

Third best film - Daskath (Tulu) - **Director:** Aneesh Poojary

Jury award - Lacchi - **Director:** Krishnegowda

Curtains down on BIFFes, Shabana gets lifetime award

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

VETERAN actress Shabana Azmi was chosen for the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 16th edition of Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFes), which concluded on Saturday. Mikka Bannada Hakki won the best Kannada film award.

As Shabana was unable to attend the event, noted theatre personality Arundathi Nag received the award on her behalf from Labour Minister Santosh Lad and Karnataka Chalanachitra Academy Chairman Sadhu Kokila.

Arundathi Nag thanked the organisers and the jury members on behalf of Shabana and said, "Shabana is a great actress, who has brought pride to the country. She has always spoken the truth —truth to power. Not only should cinema speak truth to power, but we as human beings must also do the same. Shabana has been a role model for me since my childhood, and I am grateful for her, who is a woman of substance."

Sadhu Kokila said the festival saw over a 30% increase in viewers compared to last year. Overall, 52,000 people attended the screenings. He added that last year, 2,000 people had registered for the festival, while this year, 4,317 registered.

Poorly organised

The valedictory of the film festival was poorly organised as invitees and over 15 foreign delegates struggled to find seats. Karnataka Chalanachitra Academy Chairman Sadhu Kokila had to request seated attendees to offer seats to foreign guests.

Even the director of a film that won the award at BIFFes had to stand for a while as he could not find a seat. The valedictory lacked proper representation from the Kannada film industry. An invitee said, "It is an international film festival, and organisers should have been aware of the number of attendees and planned the seating accordingly."

Miscreants caught dumping debris at Vengaiyankere Lake, made to clean up

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

ALERT residents of KR Puram taught miscreants a lesson by making them clear the debris that they had dumped at Vengaiyankere Lake buffer zone on Friday night.

Activist Balaji R said he noticed a tractor with registration number KA-07, TA 4285 near the lake. To mislead people, the tractor was also painted "BBMP" on its side. The residents asked those in the tractor to produce the permission letter to dump the debris, and they did not have one.

The residents then snatched the tractor key and forced those in the tractor to clear the dumped debris. "Such illegal disposal of debris in lake buffer zones and on roads is rampant. The authorities should seize such vehicles and impose heavy penalties," said Balaji.

A BBMP Lake official said development work is happening at the lake and the concerned department will be informed about debris dumping.

Mudassir, who is in charge of Hoskote Lanco Highway Ltd – which is managing toll collection, said miscreants have dumped debris in the past as well and they do it at night.

"We have cleared debris several times as leaving it unattended has resulted in several two-wheeler riders skidding and falling. Municipal authorities should crack the whip against such violators," said Mudassir. Senior officials from Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd (BSWML) looking after issues concerning illegal dumping said they have received a video of the incident and alerted the local officials to look into it.

"We have asked the officials at ward level to get an FIR registered and seize the tractor," said a BSWML official.

Graduation parade of technical officers held

On successful culmination of 62 weeks of rigorous training, a ceremonial Passing Out Parade of 104th Aeronautical Engineers Course (AEC) officers was held at Air Force Technical College (AFTC) Bengaluru on Friday. On the occasion, a total of 47 Engineering Officers including 10 women officers graduated from the College. Air Marshal Vijay Kumar Garg, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Maintenance Command (MC), IAF was the chief guest, who also inspected the parade as Reviewing Officer (RO). On arrival, he was received by Air Commodore Ashutosh Shrivastava, Commandant of the College.

EXPRESS READ

KSRTC celebrates Int'l Women's Day, 42 female employees honoured

Bengaluru: KSRTC celebrated International Women's Day by honouring 42 outstanding female employees. Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy praised the technical women staff of KSRTC, who are working as efficiently as their male counterparts, particularly in vehicle refurbishment. He emphasised that KSRTC is committed to provide all necessary facilities for women, including priority assignments for female conductors on various routes. Padma Shri awardee Bhimavva Doddabalappa Shillekyatar from Koppal captivated the audience with her songs and was felicitated.

BoB holds CSR activities on Int'l Women's Day

Bengaluru: Celebrating International Women's Day, Bank of Baroda conducted various CSR activities. On this occasion, Shailendra Kumar Singh, Regional Head felicitated successful women in their fields. The Deputy Regional Head Kumar Abhishek Srivastava conveyed women's day wishes, who participated in CSR activity at Samarthanam Trust conveyed his happiness for the social cause.

Women achievers honoured by GCU

Bengaluru: Garden City University celebrated International Women's Day by recognising and honouring exceptional contributions of remarkable women, who have made a significant impact in various fields. The event was graced by Chancellor Dr Joseph VG, who presented awards to inspiring women at the GCU campus.

The Karnataka Lalitha Kala Academy has announced an art competition exclusively for students from any level of study at art schools across Karnataka. The last date for submission of applications is April 30. For more details, contact 080-22480297

Despite manpower crunch, SDRF rescues 4K people in '24

RAKSHITH GOWDA @ Bengaluru

DESPITE a shortage of manpower in the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), the team successfully rescued 3,978 people out of 3,318 emergency calls received in 2024.

The SDRF, a specialized unit of the Karnataka State Fire and Emergency Services (KSFES), plays a crucial role in disaster response, including flood relief, landslides, vehicle entrapment, and other natural calamities. The force is tasked with safeguarding lives and property across the state.

According to the official KSFES website, Karnataka currently has five SDRF companies stationed in Bengaluru, Mangaluru, Belagavi, Kalaburagi and Davanagere. However, the force operates with only 137 permanent personnel, and an additional 79 ex-Army personnel serve in the team.

KSFES and SDRF Director TN Shivashankar told TNIE that SDRF plays a crucial role in rescue operations across the state. The highest number of rescue calls was reported from Mangaluru and Udupi, especially during the monsoon season when SDRF teams are most active. The teams have also successfully rescued children who have fallen into borewells, responded to major vehicle accidents, and assisted in fire mishaps and building collapses. He added that the team also conducts awareness and training programmes for the public on the use of life-saving equipment like life jackets and ropes in critical situations.

Another senior officer stated that SDRF companies need to be increased in coastal regions, as these areas are more vulnerable to natural disasters. He said the shortage of personnel needs to be addressed through increased recruitment and better resources to enhance the efficiency of the force in disaster management. "With the monsoon approaching, the department should focus on improving infrastructure and deploying additional manpower," he said, adding that the growing number of rescue operations highlights the need for a well-equipped disaster response team to minimize casualties and improve preparedness for future emergencies, he said.

WORK GRAPH

Year	Rescue calls	Humans saved	Human fatalities	Animal fatalities
2022	3,463	3,843	1,414	109
2023	2,991	1,544	1,344	209
2024	3,316	3,978	1,252	77

ALL SET FOR A SUPER SHOW

Cricket fans perform puja at a Shiva temple on the eve of the India-New Zealand Final of the Champions Trophy, in Bengaluru on Saturday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

CRIME PATROL

Aussie's phone snatched on Cunningham Road

BENGALURU: A bike-borne miscreant snatched the mobile phone from a 31-year-old Australian on Cunningham Road. The incident happened between 8.45 pm and 8.50 pm on Wednesday. In a complaint to the High Grounds police, the victim said he was walking on the road when the miscreant snatched his mobile phone and fled. The victim resides at an upscale apartment on Crescent Road in Vasanthnagar. He works in the city. The victim stated that the cost of the Google Pixel 7 phone was around Rs 50,000. "The accused is yet to be arrested. We are checking the CCTV footage in the area and have got some clues," said an officer.

24-hour cyber hackathon launched

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE Centre for Cybercrime Investigation Training and Research (CCITR), an initiative of CID Karnataka, Infosys Foundation, and Data Security Council of India (DSCI), announced the commencement of its second 24-hour Cyber Hackathon on Saturday, in partnership with PES University. The hackathon focused on innovative problem statements aimed at addressing emerging cyber threats.

The students who participated worked on developing solutions for deepfake detection - creating tools to identify and combat manipulated media content, blockchain-based digital evidence chain of custody - ensuring tamper-proof documentation and preservation of digital evidence and IoT device evidence extractor - designing methods to retrieve forensic evidence from Internet of Things (IoT) devices.

Of the 850 students, who registered for the event, 50 teams comprising of 175 students were shortlisted.

Dr MA Saleem, DGP, CID, inaugurated the hackathon.

All the news. In just a click. Log to www.newindianexpress.com | THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS | /thenewindianxpress @newindianxpress +The New Indian Express | Google Play | App Store

A Chintan-Manthan Sabha was held on Saturday, bringing together 26 major sub-sects of the Ediga community, including Billava, Namadhari and Dheevara, to chart a course for their advancement. A delegation of state leaders will meet Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to seek implementation of their demands

K'taka gets new climate change mitigation foundation

SUBHASH CHANDRA NS
@Bengaluru

THE state government seems to have woken up to the severity of climate change, as for the first time in the country, it has announced the Karnataka Forest, Wildlife and Climate Change Mitigation Foundation (KFWCCMF), which aims to mitigate the effects of climate change and increase green cover.

Accordingly, the budget-2025 has big hopes to conserve the environment and forests, while containing man-animal conflict. The budget also speaks about carbon credit through agro-forestry, afforestation, and mitigation of climate change effects by setting up the said foundation.

In his budget speech, CM Siddaramaiah said that in order to mitigate the effects of climate change, the KFWCCMF will be constituted with representatives of several corporate bodies playing a role. "This will be done in collaboration with environmentally-conscious corporate bodies and social reformers, which will facilitate environmental development through CSR contributions and donations," he said, announcing that the Karnataka State Integrated Climate Change Action Plan will be rolled out this year to mitigate the risk of climate change and herald sustainable development. The state has said it will strengthen the financial conditions of farmers through agro-forestry and a carbon credit policy. "... steps will be taken to grow plant species with high carbon retention capacity by encouraging forestry activities," the CM said.

The government has also continued with its effort to increase green cover in Karnataka.

Work together, not in opposite direction: Kharge to Siddu, DKS

AICC president says people have a lot of expectations from their leaders

AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and Deputy CM DK Shivakumar launch 'Kalyana Patha' project on Saturday

RAMAKRISHNA BADSESHI
@Kalaburagi

WITHOUT directly referring to the lobbying by various groups for the chief minister's and KPCC president's posts, AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge here on Saturday advised Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC president DK Shivakumar to work together and not to go in opposite directions.

Launching the 'Kalyana Patha' project, aiming to lay roads in rural areas of Kalyana Karnataka at Katti Sangavi village (on the grounds of Dharam Singh Hospital for Mother and Children) near Jewargi, Kharge said people elect their leaders with a lot of expectations. It is the duty of leaders to fulfill people's aspirations. If leaders go in the opposite direction, how will they face their own people, he asked. Shivakumar was present at the programme, while Siddaramaiah, who was also expected to attend, could not make it.

Kharge said Siddaramaiah created a record by presenting 16 state budget on Friday. His budgets need appreciation as he has worked for the development of Dalits, downtrodden and all sections of people, Kharge said. Similarly, Shivakumar is doing good work as KPCC president and deputy chief minister. Both are capable and committed leaders, he appreciated.

On Shivakumar's statement that the government has allocated Rs 5,000 crore for the development of Kalyana Karnataka region this year, Kharge said the region has remained backward for many decades, and it needs protein to grow strong.

He thanked the people of the region in general and people of Kalaburagi in particular for supporting him, and allowing him to become All-India Congress Committee president. At the same time, he expressed his displeasure over his defeat in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections from Kalaburagi, saying it applied brakes to his speed of work.

He told Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar that they should always remember that Kalyana Karnataka has sent many Congress MLAs to the Assembly and MPs to the Lok Sabha. Any scheme which starts from Mysuru stops at Bengaluru, and if any project starts from Kalyana Karnataka, it reaches the entire Karnataka, he said.

'CENTRE NOT RELEASING FUNDS FOR SCHEMES'

KALABURAGI: AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday claimed that the Union Government is not releasing funds for the implementation of its schemes. Participating as the chief guest at the launch of Kalyana Patha Project in Katti Sangavi village of Jewargi taluk on Saturday, Kharge said the Centre is not releasing the necessary funds for the implementation of MGNREGA scheme, though it is called Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Scheme. It is the respect the NDA government has for Mahatma Gandhi, he said.

CM will present 3 more budgets, says son Yathindra

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Mysuru

CONGRESS MLC Yathindra Siddaramaiah brushed aside talks of change of guard and maintained that his father, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, will present three more budgets. He said there is no doubt that Siddaramaiah will present 19 budgets as the Congress high command, as well as the MLAs, are in favour of his leadership.

Speaking to the media here on Saturday, Yathindra said the Karnataka High Court has quashed ED proceedings against his mother Parvathi BM. "My mother was deeply hurt and the HC direction has brought relief to her, as she was targeted for no reason. My father was made an accused in the MUDA scam, which forced him to return 14 sites to MUDA. Once the investigation is over, my mother will decide on staking claim to the 14 sites through the court," he added.

Yathindra said the government will develop MUDA on the lines of the Bengaluru Development Authority, with only nominated members on the board to clean up the mess. He said erring officials will be pulled up and punished based on the investigation report.

Taking a dig at the Leader of Opposition in the Council Chalavadi Narayaswamy for personal attacks on the chief minister's health, Yathindra said old-age ailments are common and clarified that his father will return to normal life after a week. He said the BJP leaders are attacking the budget for no reason, while refuting claims that the Congress is appeasing the minorities. He said the budget has focused on the empowerment of backward classes, Dalits, and minorities, along with other castes.

Budget: Vision set; Implementation is the real test

IN his 16th budget — his third as chief minister in the current tenure — Siddaramaiah appears to have done a fine balancing act by continuing his government's thrust on welfare programmes and attempting to cover some lost ground on the infrastructure development front.

Although the budget lacked a wow factor or a big scheme or programme that stood out, it seems that Siddaramaiah and his team endeavoured to cover most aspects of socio-economic development, including a range of schemes for minority welfare. These received flak from the opposition, while the chief minister stood his ground.

The government, which had faced ire over its guarantee-centric approach, acknowledged the role of infrastructure development in driving the state's economy and job creation while rolling out some schemes to help different sections of society, including farmers.

The proposed rain-fed agriculture policy that the CM mentioned in the budget is likely to indicate the direction in which the government will move to improve agricultural production as 64% or around 64 lakh hectares of the cultivated area in the state is non-irrigated. Even if production rises by one quintal per hectare, it adds significantly to the total production and helps small farmers in a big way.

As per the Karnataka Economic Survey 2024-25, which cited the Agriculture Census 2015-16, the average size of farm holding is 1.36 hectares and 86.81 lakh farm holdings operate on 118.05 lakh hectares. Small and marginal holdings account for 80% of the total holdings and operate 44% of the total operated area.

Efforts to boost agriculture — which is expected to grow at 4 % in 2024-25 as against -4.9 % during 2023-24 — and allied sectors can revitalise the rural economy. The focus on Bengaluru, the engine of the state's economy, could help retain its formidable position in attracting investments and its potential to increase exports. Karnataka contributes to 20.5% of India's exports. While merchandise exports are 6.09% of the country's total exports, software and services exports stand at 41%. There is scope to increase agro-exports which are being explored.

In essence, the budget seems like an effort to put together many manageable initiatives that could accumulate into big gains. But, at the end of the day, the budget merely indicates the government's intent and its vision for the financial year, and a lot depends on implementation. A whole-of-government approach is required to effectively implement them, while elected representatives, especially ministers, legislators, and district-level officers, play a pivotal role.

On some projects, the budget announcement could have been clearer. It stated on the Mekedatu Balancing Reservoir across river Cauvery, that the preparatory works had been completed and that the project would be implemented "as soon as the necessary clearances are received from the competent authorities".

It was a major political issue in the run-up to the 2023 assembly polls. Top Congress leaders took out a padayatra and vowed to implement the project, which, according to them, was crucial for addressing the future drinking water needs of Bengaluru. However, the project has not made much headway though Deputy Chief Minister and Water Resources Minister DK Shivakumar has taken it up with the Centre on many occasions. Along with its efforts to put pressure on the Centre, the state Congress leaders should try to convince the party's top leadership to take up the issue with their INDIA bloc ally DMK which is in power in Tamil Nadu.

On another big-ticket project, the Bengaluru tunnel roads, the State Government has stood guarantee to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) for Rs 19,000 crore to undertake the Rs 40,000 crore project. Long-term measures to ease traffic congestion in the state capital are needed, considering the rapidly rising rate at which vehicles are added every year. However, many experts and members of civil society groups have expressed concerns over the tunnel roads project. They need to be taken into confidence by holding public consultations and placing all details, including the feasibility reports and scientific studies in the public domain before venturing to take up the mega project.

Be it any infrastructure projects, or welfare schemes announced in the Rs 4.09 lakh crore outlay budget, stakeholders' participation is crucial.

As Siddaramaiah rightly mentioned at the beginning of his speech, "The budget is not merely a lifeless exercise of adding and subtracting numbers. I stand here with the utmost understanding that I carry a huge responsibility of putting forward our promises made to the seven-crore people of the State, breathing the hopes of a better life."

It's time to deliver on those promises.

BJP chief whip in the Legislative Council N Ravi Kumar addresses the media in Chikkamagaluru on Saturday | EXPRESS

State budget has let down farmers, SC/STs: BJP MLC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Chikkamagaluru

BJP chief whip in the Legislative Council N Ravi Kumar said the budget 2025-26 presented by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has ignored farmers by not sanctioning any grants for them, and tremed it a Rs 4,09,549-lakh loan budget.

Speaking to reporters here on Saturday, Kumar said though there are a large number of farmers in the state who depend on agriculture for their livelihood, the CM has not sanctioned funds for the Upper Krishna Project, Tungabhadra, Bhima and Yettinahole projects.

"SC/ST communities have been neglected, and a CM, who claims to be a patron of Dalits, had earlier enacted a law that the SCST/TPS funds should not be utilised for other purposes, but has overruled the Act by diverting funds to the tune of Rs 13,913 crore out of Rs 41,000 crore earmarked for SC-STs, towards implementation of the Congress' five guarantees," he alleged. Stating that the chief minister had meted out injustice to these communities by diverting funds meant for them, Kumar accused that Rs 39,000 crore in 2023-24 and Rs 11,144 crore in 2024-25 have been utilised for different purposes. Opposing the government's diversion of funds for the guarantees, the BJP has been staging protests throughout the state, demanding the return of the diverted funds, he said.

Kumar further informed that when the Assembly session resumes on Monday, BJP members will raise the issue of diversion of funds, which were earmarked for SC/STs and urge the government to return the money.

BJP ACCUSES STATE GOVERNMENT OF DIVERTING SC/ST WELFARE FUNDS

BENGALURU: Leader of Opposition in the Council Chalavadi Narayanswamy said they would launch a protest against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah for diverting Rs 13,443 crore from the Scheduled Castes sub-plan and Tribal sub-plan for the guarantees. Speaking to the media after holding a meeting with representatives of Dalit organisations, the BJP leader said the latter are forming 10 teams that will go around the state to create awareness. A massive rally attended by around five lakh people will be held in Bengaluru to send out a message to the state government and the government's move of diverting funds will be questioned in court, he said. The BJP will continue to fight against the government's decision and the campaign gained more strength after Dalit organisations joined it, he said.

DEVE GOWDA TASKS NIKHIL WITH REVIVING JDS IN K'TAKA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

FORMER prime minister and JDS supremo **HD Deve Gowda** on Saturday asserted that he will not rest until his party is revived in the state, and wished that about 80 women contest the next Assembly polls on the party's ticket. Accordingly, he tasked his grandson, JDS Youth Wing state president Nikhil Kumaraswamy, to organise rallies across the state.

"Your (Nikhil) grandfather will never sleep. I know how to safeguard my party which I will not reveal now. Everyone should work together for the party organisation. I will also go everywhere for rallies and the youth should build the organisation under Nikhil's leadership," he said at an International Women's Day programme observed at the JDS office here.

"The one who gave strength to women is Prime Minister Narendra Modi. We are with him, and there is no fear. At least, 50 women's conferences should be held in futurem for which I will give money, even if it requires me to raise funds. Union minister HD Kumaraswamy will come, and I will come, and Nikhil should travel across the state and build the party," he said.

"In the coming years, at least 80 women should contest for the Assembly from our party. I should see it with my own eyes. Modi has implemented many programmes for women's empowerment as the Women's Reservation Bill has been passed in the Lok Sabha," he pointed out.

He alleged that even as the JDS empowered the weaker sections by introducing reservation in electoral politics in local bodies, the Congress is claiming credit and reaping dividends.

Refusing to react to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's 16th budget for 2025-26, Gowda charged, "He has presented the budget. I will not say a word. I will speak when the time comes. But he is talking about social justice. We brought social justice and reservation for the weaker sections in this state. But the Congress is reaping the political benefit."

Nikhil slams Siddu over minority appeasement

JDS Youth Wing state president Nikhil Kumaraswamy on Saturday joined the BJP in terming Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's 16th budget as partisan and appeasing to the Muslim community, for whom a large amount of funds have been allocated. "He (Siddaramaiah) gave 'biryani' to one minority community, whereas the other minority communities were given pickles to lick. Shame on him for a budget like this," Nikhil said, adding, "Siddaramaiah shouldn't have shown such discrimination in the budget, as he has followed a policy of divide and rule among the minorities. There is money to save Urdu schools. However, there is no money to give to universities. He has given grants for the construction of Waqf properties, but they cannot afford to provide higher education to all communities' children in universities."

SINGING NUMBERS

A budget that was etched in stone, verse & ideology

KARTHIK K K @Mysuru

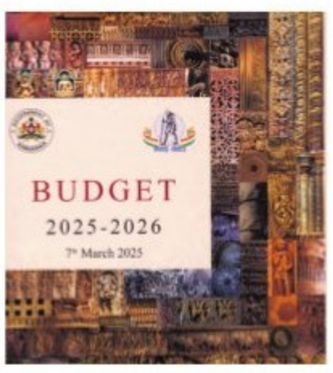
IN a remarkable confluence of art, language, and ideology, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's record 16th budget was more than a financial document. It was a bold statement of his deep-rooted commitment to Kannada culture, language, land and his own ideology in a metaphoric way.

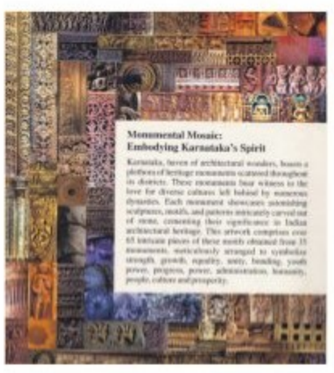
When Siddaramaiah stood to present his budget, it was more than just numbers and policies. It was also a narrative, a tribute, a cultural manifesto wrapped in fiscal planning.

The budget book was titled 'Monumental Mosaic: Embodying Karnataka's Spirit', which was not merely a document of financial allocations, but a metaphorical expression of Karnataka's cultural, linguistic, and ideological ethos. Beyond its design, the budget book was an ode to Kannada, if dug deeper.

The cover page of the book printed by the Department of Printing, Stationery and Publications, meticulously arranged motifs symbolising strength, growth, equality, unity, youth empowerment, progress, administration, humanity, culture, and prosperity, reflecting the state's historical depth and its aspirations for the future.

Within its pages, the poetry of Karnataka's literary giants found a voice. Verses and lines from Kuvempu, Gopalakrishna Adiga, Kumaravyasa, Wilson Kateel, and KS Nissar Ahmed graced the budget, intertwining economic policies with the lyrical beauty of Kannada literature and also vachanas of Basavanna.





The budget book, titled 'Monumental Mosaic: Embodying Karnataka's Spirit', was a metaphorical expression of the state's cultural, linguistic, and ideological ethos

Siddaramaiah also embedded the words of Dr BR Ambedkar and Ram Manohar Lohia, aligning his fiscal policies with their vision of equality and empowerment.

The budget book was more than just numbers and policies. It was a cultural and ideological proclamation, asserting Karnataka's identity, honouring its past, and championing an inclusive future rooted in Kannada pride. His close aides and officials claimed that Siddaramaiah did not just want to make his record 16th budget a landmark just in governance but in cultural assertion and his own ideology and approach in a metaphoric way.

A man whose wedding was slated to take place on Sunday died by suicide in the wee hours of Saturday at Ramachandrampeta in Metpally mandal. The victim, identified as 37-year-old Lakkanampelli Kiran, a private school teacher, hanged himself from the ceiling fan using a chunni. He even took part in pre-wedding events on Friday

AIADMK president Edappadi K Palanisamy and women party cadres at an International Women's Day event at the party headquarters in Chennai on Saturday

EPS: AIADMK NEVER DEPENDED ON ANY PARTY FOR TIE-UP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

A day after BJP state president K Annamalai claimed that certain political parties which had blamed the saffron party for their electoral defeats over the past five years are now eagerly seeking an alliance with them, AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami (EPS) indirectly dismissed the statement as not referring to the AIADMK.

Speaking to journalists at the AIADMK headquarters during the party's International Women's Day celebrations, Palaniswami pointed out that Annamalai had not explicitly named any party in his remarks, indicating that it may not be directed at them.

In a separate television interview, he firmly reiterated that AIADMK, since its inception, has never relied on any party's support for electoral alliances.

During the event, EPS kickstarted the party's signature campaign for women's safety and also provided livelihood assistance to a group of women.

Addressing the gathering, EPS recalled the various welfare measures which were implemented during the erstwhile AIADMK-led governments and said that as the longest-serving woman chief minister of Tamil Nadu, J Jayalalithaa had set a remarkable record.

Under her leadership, various schemes were implemented to ensure women's safety including the Cradle Baby Scheme to prevent female infanticide and the Girl Child Protection Scheme.

I DID NOT MENTION AIADMK IN MY COMMENT: ANNAMALAI

Coimbatore: While AIADMK General Secretary Edappadi Palaniswami reacted to BJP state president Annamalai's comment that those who had blamed the BJP for their electoral defeats in the last five years and those who called the BJP a NOTA party, are now eagerly waiting to ally with it, Annamalai on Saturday said that he did not mention the AIADMK in his comment. Speaking to the media at the Coimbatore airport, Annamalai said that he had only spoken about the BJP's stand, and it has been misinterpreted for TV debates. Also accusing the TV debates and participants of talking in favour of DMK, he questioned how he and Palaniswami could respond to such a thing.

Southern states to set up centre to fight drug, criminal mafia

SHAN A S @ T'Puram

THE Kerala Police have joined hands with seven other police units from southern states and Union territories to form a coordination centre to share information on drugs and fugitives, with an eye on cracking down drug and criminal rackets having inter-state connections.

The centre was set up three weeks ago during a meeting of senior officials of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep, highly placed sources said.

During the meeting, it was decided to pass on information and coordinate actions in drug cases that have inter-state ramifications. The move is expected to help the police in curbing the supply of drugs to Kerala as it can now proactively get police from other states to crack down on drug rackets that are based in their areas of jurisdictions.

The state police have also entered into a similar understanding with Goa police on sharing inputs on drug rackets and taking coordinated actions against them. The police have long suspected that synthetic drugs are being brought to the state from Karnataka and Goa.

"The big positive of this system is that when we catch a person with drugs and he spills beans on the involvement of people or rackets based out of Bengaluru, we can immediately alert the Karnataka police about it. They can immediately act on the information we provide and there will be follow-up action from their side. This is a win-win situation for all the police forces which are involved in the activity," said a senior police officer.

Veeranna among Sahitya Academy award winners

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA Sahitya Academy has announced its awards under various categories for 2022 and 2023.

Disclosing this here on Saturday, academy president LN Mukundraj said the award ceremony will be held at Ravindra Kalakshetra on March 24.

The academy's Honorary Award for 2023 will be presented to C Veeranna (Bengaluru), Dr Srirama Ittannavar (Bagalkot), Janagere Venkataramaiah (Tumakuru), AM Madari (Koppal), and Sabiha Bhoomi Gowda (Mangaluru). The award includes a cash prize of Rs 50,000, a plaque and a certificate.

The academy will present its Sahitya Sri Award for 2023 to MS Shekhar (Mysuru), GN Mohan (Bengaluru), TS Vivekananda (Tumakuru), Jayashree Kambara (Belagavi), Nijalingappa Yamanappa Mattihal (Dharwad), Balagurumurthy (Kolar), Prof Shivagangarumma (Kalaburagi), Reeta Reeni (Bengaluru), Khaleem Ullah (Shivamogga) and Venkatagiri Dalavai (Ballari). They will be given a cash prize of Rs 25,000, a plaque and a certificate.

The academy has selected 18 books for its awards under various categories. Nine writers have been chosen for endowment awards for 2022.

NO BREAKTHROUGH YET

Rescue operations continue at Srisailam Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnel in Nalgonda district, Telangana, on Saturday. Eight workers remain trapped and Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy announced that robotic technology has been deployed to accelerate the ongoing rescue operations | EXPRESS

Nursing student's 'kidnap' sparks tension in Belagavi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Belagavi

POLICE have registered a case after a 19-year-old nursing student went missing which created tension between two communities in Santi Bastwad village on the outskirts of Belagavi on Saturday.

The girl reportedly went missing on February 22 as per the complaint lodged by her mother on Saturday.

The complainant alleged that a boy from another community from the village, who was in a relationship with the girl, kidnapped her.

The girl's family alleged that Sadruddin Bepari, a construction worker from the same village, kidnapped her 17 days ago.

The incident has triggered verbal clashes between the two communities in the village. As a precautionary measure, the police have tightened the security measures.

According to police sources, the missing nursing student had developed a friendship with Sadruddin, which later turned into a relationship over the last two to three years and the two went missing after the girl's family raised objections to their friendship.

Police have registered a missing persons complaint.

Woman held for death of baby over blind beliefs

RAGHOTTAM KOPPAR @Koppal

Superstition has claimed the life of a seven-month-old baby at a village in Koppal district. The baby's mother was arrested for allegedly killing the baby in the name of a blind belief.

During the postmortem, doctors found that the child was allegedly poisoned. It was reported that the child was sick from November and the mother visited many hospitals but in vain. Hence, the mother opted to perform puja for the baby's health and some people told her that the baby should be burnt with incense sticks to come out of the 'sin', but the baby died after the practice.

The incident happened at a village near Kanakagiri town of Koppal district a few days ago and came to light after the Child Protection Cell officer filed a case against the mother of the deceased baby. There are many people in rural areas who still follow blind beliefs even today. Some villagers go for 'burning treatments' for liver and other stomach related diseases in these rural parts.

District administration and health officials have warned them that such beliefs will end in tragedy but still such incidents happen again and again.

When the mother tried an incense stick burning method to treat the baby for a few days, the baby fell ill and was admitted to Koppal government hospital. The baby died later when it failed to respond to the treatment.

When the doctors performed a postmortem, they came to know that it was due to poison. Koppal District Health and Family Welfare officer Dr T Lingaraju informed the Child Protection Cell and told them to file an FIR against the baby's mother. An official from the Koppal Child Protection Cell said, "The postmortem report confirmed that the seven-month-old baby had been burnt with incense sticks and the poison claimed the baby's life."

"In this context, an FIR has been registered on the basis of a complaint filed by Prashanth, an official from the Child Protection Unit. We have been creating awareness in both rural and urban areas and many people have also become aware but still some people follow superstitions which kill innocent people," the official added.

Kodagu DC, forest dept clash over diversion of land

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

A clash between the forest department and the Kodagu district administration over diversion of a piece of reserve forest land to build a school reached a flashpoint a few days ago with officials from both departments filing complaints against each other.

On January 9, Kodagu deputy commissioner Venkata Raja issued an order granting one acre of land bearing survey No 69/1 in Pattighat Reserve Forest near Sampaje village in Madikeri taluk to house the school.

According to forest officials, after the DC issued the order, a group of people from Sampaje cleared the forest land on March 3. They attacked a few forest officials who tried to stop them. "We were beaten up and local police did not reach the spot on time," said a forester, who was also attacked.

Following this, an FIR was registered against 11 forest officials, including deputy conservator of forests of Kodagu Bhaskar B. He has been named as accused No1 in the FIR.

Bhaskar said the land in contention is part of the reserve forest. It was declared as a reserve forest in 1904 by the then chief commissioner of Kodagu. "We informed the DC that the land is part of the reserve forest and it can't be diverted for other purposes. A survey was conducted by the tahsildar on March 6 and the DC's office declared it as government land," he said.

On March 4, the DCF held a meeting with the DC to resolve the matter and request him to withdraw the complaint against forest officials, failing which a complaint will be filed under the Wildlife Protection Act and the Forest Clearance Act against the officials of the district administration.

Principal chief conservator of forests Meenakshi Negi said the land in contention is forest land and it can't be diverted without following certain procedures. Forest department's clearance is needed for diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes.

The matter also caught the attention of forest, environment and ecology minister Eshwar B Khandre, who told the forest department to resolve it. On how the forest land was granted and whether the decision will be reversed, Raja said, "The forest department delayed in responding to my letter. We held a discussion with them. A decision will be taken soon."

A scootie belonging to the accused at the crime scene near the Tungabhadra canal at Sanapur village in Koppal district | EXPRESS

Wakf land: Lahar Singh to meet Rijiju, Pal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

BJP Rajya Sabha member Lahar Singh Siroya said he will meet Union Minister Kiran Rijiju and chairman of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Wakf legislation, Jagadambika Pal, in New Delhi on Monday along with documents on the alleged misuse of Wakf properties by Congress leaders in Karnataka.

He hoped that the documents will support the Centre in its legislation on Wakf properties. He alleged that Wakf lands have been misappropriated by influential people, including Congress leaders, in Karnataka. Siddaramaiah rescued these influential leaders when he was chief minister in 2016 by deliberately ignoring a report by then Upa Lokayukta Justice N Anand on alleged irregularities.

"The documents run up to nearly 40,000 pages. They are from every district of Karnataka, and have been filed by respective deputy commissioners and presented to Justice Anand. Nothing can be more authentic and accurate," he said, exhibiting the documents.

He urged the state government to table the Justice Anand commission report in the ongoing session of the Assembly. He said the documents were sent to the commission of inquiry set up by the state government, under Justice Anand in 2012. "I only wish to seek justice for the community because I also belong to a minority community," he said. "The state government is planning to pass a resolution in the Assembly against the central government's wakf legislation, saying it is a violation of federal principles. But I feel Congress is trying to shield some of its powerful colleagues and friends," he said.

Missing Diganth traced in Udupi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Mangaluru

DIGANTH (17), a resident of Farangipete in Bantwal taluk, who went missing on February 25, was finally traced in Udupi on Saturday. A source in the police department said Diganth apparently left the house to skip second PU final examinations due to fear of getting low marks.

He took some cash and left home telling his family that he would visit a temple nearby. He travelled first to Mysuru in a train from Bantwal and from there he went to Bengaluru.

He reportedly worked in a resort near Nandi Hills for a few days, earned around ₹3,000 and went to Shivamogga and came back to Mysuru in train. From Mysuru, he took a train to Murudeshwar via Mangaluru on Saturday.

The source added that he got off the train at Udupi and went to a supermarket where the staff identified by the staff who informed the police. He also spoke to his mother from supermarket staff's phone and said he is safe and claimed that he was abducted, which is being verified by the police. He is in the custody of Child Welfare Committee and will be produced before the court on Monday.

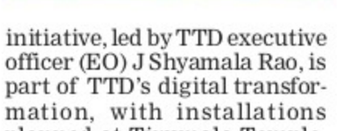
TTD to introduce world's first gold & silver pendant ATMs at Tirumala

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Tirumala

TIRUMALA Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) is set to introduce the world's first Gold and Silver Pendant ATMs at the sacred Tirumala temple.

The machines, which will dispense pendants embossed with Lord Venkateswara and Goddess Lakshmi Devi, aim to merge devotion with technology.

Unlike commercial gold ATMs in the UAE, these feature AI-enabled interfaces similar to banking ATMs, requiring minimal additional steps. The



initiative, led by TTD executive officer (EO) J Shyamala Rao, is part of TTD's digital transformation, with installations planned at Tirumala Temple, Govindaraja Temple in Tirupati, and Padmavati Ammavari Temple in Tiruchanoor.

"The software is designed for ease—anyone can operate it with just one or two extra steps compared to a cash ATM," Rao told TNIE. However, he clarified that the project would move forward only if it aligns with sacred scriptures and Agamas, ensuring adherence to temple traditions.

TTD is actively engaging with software firms and AI startups to finalise the technology. Several companies are scheduled to present proposals and demonstrate machine prototypes. The Gold and Silver Pendant ATMs will offer pendants in 2g, 5g, and 10g variants. These will enable purchases without human intervention.

CM: Govt committed to keeping everyone safe

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah said the state government is committed to ensuring the safety of every individual, including tourists visiting the state. "The horrific assault and rape of an Israeli national and a homestay owner in Sanapur, Gangavati taluk, Koppal district, is a deeply heinous crime. As soon as the incident was reported, I directed the police officials concerned to take immediate action, conduct a stringent investigation, and swiftly apprehend the culprits," the CM stated.

"The police have already arrested two accused and are continuing the investigation. Our government is committed to ensuring the safety of every individual, including tourists visiting our state. We will take all necessary measures to prevent such incidents from recurring," Siddaramaiah stated.

Shekhawat condemns attack on tourists

Condemning the attack on tourists near Koppal, Union Minister for Culture and Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat posted on social media, "Appalled by the brutal gang-rape of an Israeli tourist & homestay owner and the tragic loss of life in Koppal, Karnataka. Horrific and a terrifying reflection of the state of affairs in the Congress-ruled state, especially around a World Heritage Site. Strongly Condemn this incident & urge CM @siddaramaiah to ensure strict action against the perpetrators; for such a failure of law and order around a renowned tourist site like Hampi will severely impact its tourism prospects & potential."

EXPRESS READ

ISRO launches programme on space tech for schoolchildren

Bengaluru: The Indian Space Research Organisation will conduct a special programme for schoolchildren -- YUva VIgyani KAryakram (YUVIKA) -- to impart basic knowledge on space technology, space science and space applications. The programme, which will be held from March 19 to 30, is also expected to encourage more students to pursue Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) for research and career. Registration starts from February 24 and ends on March 23. The first list of selected candidates will be released on April 7. Students of Class 9 as on January 1 in India are eligible. For further details, log onto ISRO website. ENS

Three feared drowned in Tungabhadra river

Gadag: Three youth were feared drowned after they went for swimming in Tungabhadra river near Korlahalli bridge in Mundargi taluk of Gadag district on Saturday. A search operation was launched on Saturday evening to trace Sharanappa Badiger (34), Mahesh Badiger (36) and Gurunath Badiger (38). Till night, the police searched for all three but in vain. ENS

Man suffers heart attack, plunges car into canal, dies with two children

Warangal: A 30-year-old man, S Praveen, his son Aryavardhan Sai (2), and daughter Chaitra Sai (4) died when a car fell into the Sri Ram Sagar Project (SRSP) canal on the outskirts of Theegarajupalle of Sangem mandal in the district on Saturday. The victims are residents of Macharajpalle village in Mahabubabad district. Praveen, who was driving the car, reportedly suffered a heart attack and lost control over the vehicle which fell into the canal. Villagers rescued Praveen's wife Krishnaveni and pulled out Aryavardhan who died later. Police and swimmers fished out the car from the canal. The bodies of the father and daughter were found in the car. ENS

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that **SRI.RAVIKUMAR** is the owner of immovable property mentioned in the schedule hereunder and he has lost the original Sale Deed dated 27/9/2018 bearing Document No.4210/2018-19, Book-1, Stored in CD No.445, **executed by Sri.P.G.Thomas in favour of Sri.Venkateshareddy.K., registered in the office of sub registrar, Anekal,** pertaining to the schedule property: In case anybody having any claims or in possession of the said document, shall inform the under singed and handover the same within SEVEN DAYS from the date of publication of this notice.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property bearing **Site No.120**, old Khatha No.342/120, New Khatha No.150200102500401039, and Property No.400/120, in the layout **"VYSHALI NAGARA"** formed in converted Sy.no.19 & 103 measuring 5 acre 2 guntas, situated at Suragajakkanahalli village Kasaba Hobli Anekal Taluk Bangalore Urban District, measuring East to West: 40 feet, and North to South: 30 feet, totally measuring 1200 Sq feet and bounded on: **East by:** Private property, **West by :** Road, **North By :** Site No.119 , **South by :** Site No.121,

N.JAGADEESH KUMAR, Advocate
No.30/1, 2nd Floor, 7th Cross,
Near NR Colony Bus Stand,
Opp. Hotel Dwaraka, Bangalore-560019.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTORATE OF SERICULTURE, MANIPUR

No.Seri-5(3)/TPS(PCT)/2019(Pt.)/559 Dated: Imphal, the 6th March, 2025

TENDER NO.01 OF 6th March, 2025.

PRESS NOTICE

The Directorate of Sericulture, Manipur invites bids for the for supply of pre & Post cocoon equipment / machineries under Integrated Sericulture Development Project of NERTPS **in Manipur** from the Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) or Authorized suppliers with proper and valid Authorization certificate from OEMs Manufacturer.

Details may be seen at NIC website **http://manipurtenders.gov.in** and also at the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/-
Director of Sericulture, Manipur

Memo No. Seri-5(3)/TPS(PCT)/2019(Pt.)/559
Dated: Imphal, the 6th March, 2025

Canara Bank
A Government of India Undertaking

ARM Branch - II, 2nd Floor, Circle Office, Spencer Towers, No. 86, MG Road, Bangalore - 560001 Ph No. 080-25310099, 080-25310181,
E-mail - cb6298@canarabank.com

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

Refer to our E-Auction Sale Notice Advertisement of **GRS Enterprise** published in **"The New Indian Express and Udayakala"** published on **22.11.2024**. Kindly read the address and boundaries of the property as follows:

Schedule A : All the piece and Parcel of the immovable property residential apartment bearing BBMP No:4/4(old no.30),6 th cross Ashok Nagar,Bengaluru 560050 measuring East to West 75 feet and North to South 60 feet **bounded on the East by:** BBMP Main Road **West by:** Private property **North by:** Private Property **South by:** 7th Cross Road

SCHEDULE B: All that piece and parcel of one Flat bearing Flat No.4/4, G1-Ground Floor, "Mahalakshmi Residency", 6th cross, Ashoknagar, Bangalore - 560 050 constructed in Schedule - 'A' property and allotted PID No.51-45-4/4 by ARO., of BBMP., Ward No. 51 with a super built up area of 1350 sft., consisting of one Hall cum dining, Three Bed Rooms, Two attached Bath rooms, One Kitchen and Balconies with proportionate share in the common areas such as passages, lobbies, staircases, and other areas of common use with one covered Car parking space in the basement floor together with an undivided share of land to an extent of 370.00 Sft., construction on Schedule "A" Property having all civic amenities, Mosaic and Vitrified tiles flooring with Water, Electricity and Sanitary Connections and Deposit's, together with all right, appurtenances, whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface, property in the name of Mr. Narayanappa C. **Bounded on the North By:** Flat No. G2 (BBMP No. 4/4-1), **South By:** Cross Road, **East By:** Flat No. G4 (BBMP No. 4/4-3), **West By:** Private Property.

All other terms and conditions will remain the same.

Place : Bengaluru
Date : 07.03.2025

Sd/-, Authorized Officer
Canara Bank

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to Inform General Public that my client **Sri. Vikram Umachagi** has intended to purchase in respect of the Schedule Property from Sri. Rajinder Sharma S/o Late Ram Sagar Sharma, Residing at House No. Beside Cable Raju House, Vandaraguppe Village, Kasaba Hobli, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara District.

Any Person/s Financial institution, Coparcener, Legal heir/s or other interested party/s having any Objections/Claims on the Schedule Property may lodge their objections or claims in writing with all supporting Documentary evidence by registered Post with regards to such Lawful Claim with the Undersigned **within 15 (Fifteen)** Days from hereof, failing which my client will proceed to complete the Registration Formalities any Claims Lodged thereafter will not be entertained by my client.

SCHEDULE "A"

All the Piece and Parcel of Agricultural property in Old Sy. No.31 new Sy. No.31/2 Situate at Cholamaranahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara District, measuring 1 Acer Bounded on: - **East By:** Nakashe Road and land of Rajanna. **West By:** Land of Rajinder Sharma. **North By:** Voni. **South By:** Properties of Alumelamma and Rajender Sharma..

SCHEDULE "B"

All the Piece and Parcel of Agricultural property in Old Sy No. 32, New Sy No. 32/1 Situate at Cholamaranahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara District, measuring 1 acer 27 Guntas Bounded on: - **East By:** Property belongs to Shivram S/o Late Channegowda. **West By:** Property belongs to K Ramaya S/o Late Kenchegowda. **North By:** Property belongs to Voni Temple Road (MAP road). **South By:** Property belongs to Muthaiya S/o Late Govindappa.

SATHISH KUMAR, Advocate
S.PLAW CHAMBER
#16, First Floor, HHS & HMS Complex,
Behind Halasuru Gate Police Station,
Cubbonpet Main Road, Bengaluru-560 002

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT, MAHARANA BHUPAL, GOVT. HOSPITAL, UDAIPUR.

BID NOTICE No.30 Date: 28-2-2025 (E-Tender)

Online Bids are invited from Principal Manufacturer / Authorized Dealer / Distributors for the following items (**Rate Contract**). The Bid documents can be downloaded from website http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in Details of this Bid notification and pre-qualification criteria can also be seen in NIB exhibited on website www.dipronline.org as well as www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in. Bids are to be submitted online in electronic format on website http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in

Sr. No.	Item Name	Estt. Total Cost (in Lakh)	Submission end date	UBN No
1.	Diagnostic Kits & Lab Items	125.00	24-3-25 at 5.00 PM	GHU2425GLRC00087
2.	Respiratory Pathogen Panel Kit	90.00	24-3-25 at 5.00 PM	GHU2425GLRC00088
3.	CAMC & Repairing of A.C., Deep Freezer, Refrigerator	50.00	24-3-25 at 5.00 PM	GHU2425WSRC00089
4.	General Items	40.00	24-3-25 at 5.00 PM	GHU2425GLRC00090
5.	Electric Items	40.00	24-3-25 at 5.00 PM	GHU2425GLRC00091

DIPR/C/3232/2025 Sd/- **SUPERINTENDENT**

Government of Karnataka

SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT

COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL WELFARE
V FLOOR, M.S. BUILDINGS, Dr.B.R.AMBEDKAR VEEDHI, BANGALORE - 560 001
Phone No. (080)-22253783, 22254071

NO. SWD/ED-4/CR-1605338/2024-25 **DATE:04.03.2025**

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Department of Social Welfare has invited E-Tender from the Manufacturers and authorized Dealers for the supply of two tier cots for the use in Government Pre Metric & Post Metric hostels. The Tender document details can be downloaded through e-procurement portal in Government of Karnataka **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** The commencement of download e-tender form from website is date: **04-03-2025.** The last date and time for uploading of E-tender in E-procurement platform on or before **date:03-04-2025** at **5.00 P.M.** Those who are interested to supply can participate in the process.

Sd/-
Joint Director (Education), &
Tender inviting authority
Social Welfare Department, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/5552/SSC/2024-25

MAHATRANSCO
Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER CPD/141-2024-25

Tenders are invited through e-Tendering in SRM Two Bid system from the registered vendors for Supply of following:

Tender No. & Description of Material	Estimated Amount (in Rs. Cr.) / Tender Fee (in Rs.)	Due Date & Time (Hrs.) Submission & Opening of Tender
SP/T-0706/0325 [RFX No.5000001366] [1st Call] Hiring of Agency for As-Is Migration of SAP applications from proprietary SAP-HEC cloud to any Cloud infrastructure availing hosting, connectivity & managed services for period Three [3] years	15.23 / 25000.00	27.03.2025 17:30 / 27.03.2025 17:35
Pre-bid meeting Date, Time & Venue	Date: 10.03.2025 Time: 16:00:00 Hrs. Venue: Ground Floor, IT Section, MSETCL C.O. 'Prakashganga' Plot No. C-19, E-Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra East, Mumbai, Maharashtra-400051.	

Contact Person: Office of the Executive Engineer (P&C) Tel.No.022-69852720/022-69852717 Cell.No.09619469933
Email:cecpa@mahatransco.in, secpa@mahatransco.in, eegrp8@mahatransco.in, eepc@mahatransco.in;cgmit@mahatransco.in
For further details visit our website **http://www.srmetender.mahatransco.in**
Any further amendments will be published on the MSETCL website www.mahatransco.in. So bidders are requested to check the website.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (P&C)

RAIL COACH FACTORY KAPURTHALA

For and on behalf of the President of India, the Principal Chief Materials Manager, Rail Coach Factory invites e-tenders for supply of the following items:-

Sr. No.	Tender No. and Due Date	Description	Quantity (Nos/Sets)	EMD (Rs.)
1	14251029 02.04.2025	HPL Sheet 1.2x1220x 2440MM	339 Nos.	3,87,890/-
		HPL Sheet 3x1220x2440MM	138 Nos.	
		HPL Sheet 3x1220x2440MM	13562 Nos.	
2	14251027 04.04.2025	Sound Insulating Wood Panels of Size 16x851x3075MM	9306 Nos.	18,56,490/-
		Sound Insulating Wood Panels of Size 16x1250x3000MM	9029 Nos.	
3	17251097 03.04.2025	Design, Development, Supply & Installation of the Aluminium Interior for LHB GS Coaches	20 Set	6,01,430/-
4	12251037 31.03.2025	Supply and Installation of One Coach (PL No/ Item Code 31641489)	108 Set	3,08,140/-
		Set of Entrance Hand Rail for Train Set MC, TC, MC2, NDTC/EC & NDTC/ EC2 Coaches		
5.	05251103 10.04.2025	Set of roof assly	75 Nos.	1,80,000/-
6.	05251070 02.04.2025	Set of Door Cut Out Complete for LHB Coach (PL No./ Item Code 33556740)	596 Nos.	6,81,700/-
7.	13245239C 31.03.2025	Motorized Bogie Turn Table	02 Nos.	98,640/-

1. For details and making On-line bids, visit Website **http://ireps.gov.in.** Drawings/specifications, wherever required can be downloaded from RCF Website **http://www.rcf.indianrailways.gov.in. Class IIIb digital signature certificate required for on-line bidding, can be obtained from licensed certifying agencies listed at http://www.cce.gov.in.**
2. Tenders will close at **14:30 HRS** on due date and tender will be opened at **14:30 HRS.** Tenders **Sr. No. 1 to 7** will be opened at RCF, Kapurthala (Punjab).
3. Tenderers are advised to submit the tender cost online through **Electronic Mode Through Payment Gateway/ Facility on the IREPS Website.**
4.For queries contact IREPS Helpdesk at 011-24102855, 011-24105180 or RCF helpdesk at 011-23378658.
Note: GST Number of RCF is 03AAAGM0289C1ZT. All the suppliers are advised to quote this in dispatch documents for the supplies made by them. **PCMM**

CORRIGENDUM: The following amendments are authorized against **(1) Tender No.** 12241440 for procurement of INTER-COACH GANGWAY WITHOUT FLEXIBLE INTERIOR SYSTEM FURNISHING (INCLUDING VESTIBULE FOOT PLATE) FOR LHB COACHES **Due date may be read as** 17.03.2025 **instead of** 07.03.2025. **(2) Tender No.:** 17231508 **Due date may be read as** 18.03.2025 **instead of** 07.03.2025. **(3) Tender No.:** 17241207B for procurement of VERIOUS TYPE OF INTERIOR STICKERS WITH BRAILLE **Due date may be read as** 13.03.2025 **instead of** 04.03.2025. **(4) Tender No.:** 13255046 for procurement of Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Fire Detection and Suppression System **Due date may be read as** 14.03.2025 **instead of** 05.03.2025. **PCMM**

R.O. No. 133-S/2024-25 **Dated: 08.03.2025**

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank
इलाहाबाद ALLAHABAD

Indian Bank, Zonal Office, Bengaluru
4th Floor, East Wing, Raheja Towers
MG Road, Bengaluru - 560001

APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to rule 8 (6)]
Sale notice for sale of immovable properties

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic (whichever is applicable) possession which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Indian Bank,** Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is" "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **26.03.2025**, for recovery due to the Indian Bank, Secured Creditor, from the Borrowers.The specific details of the property intended to be brought to sale through e-auction mode are enumerated below:

Indian Bank,Halasuru Branch Ph. No: 9130064351

Sl No.1: Name of the Borrowers:Mrs. Pramila M Shetty W/o Manohar S Shetty and Mr. Manohar M Shetty, S/o Shivarama Shetty (Borrower), both are residing at Address No.190, G-1 H D Huleri Chambers, 1st main Road, Mahalakshmi Layout, Bengaluru 560058
Amount Recovery : Rs. 30,45,374/- (Rupees Thirty lakhs fourty five thousand three hundred twenty five only) (as on 06.03.2025) due PIs Interest and expenses thereon. **Detailed description of the Property:Schedule 'A' Property**:All the Piece and parcel of immovable Property in land comprised in Syrvey Nos. 16/3, 16/4 and 16/5 in all measuring 11617 Sq. mts, Veerasandra Village, Bangalore Hosur Road, Attibele, Hobili, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru South.
Schedule 'B' Property:All the Piece and parcel of immovable Property in land comprised in Syrvey Nos. 16/3, 16/4 and 16/5, Veerasandra Village, Bangalore Hosur Road, Attibele, Hobili, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru South admeasuring approx. 8449 sq mts (i.e. 90910 sq.ft.) which is part of Schedule 'A' Property
Schedule 'C' Property:354/90910 sq.ft. proportionate undivided share right, title interest and ownership in the land decribed in schedule 'B' Property.
Schedule 'D' Property: All that residential apartment bearing No. C 1604 now bearing E-Khatha No. 150200103100600907/779/ Sixteenth floor C-1604 alloted by the Rural Development and Panchayath Raj Department, Veerasandra Village, Hebbagodi Gram Panchayarh, Anekal Block, Bengalore District in the Sixteenth floor of 'C' Block of thr Building called "AQUA HEIGHTS" built in Schedule 'B' property and admeasuring 1470 square feet of super built up area (Which is inclusive of proportionate share in common areas such as passage, lobbies, lifts, staircase and other areas of common use) and one reserved Car parking space, in the basement Floor/Ground/First floor and the apartment is bounded on the East by: Commercial Block,West by: C-1601,North by: Staircase Corridor,South by: Flat No. D - 1602.

Encumbrances on property	NIL
Reserve Price	Rs 1,24,70,000/-
EMd Amount	Rs 12,47,0000/-
Bid incremental amount	Rs.10,000/-
Date and time of e-auction	Dt 26.03.2025 from 10.00 AM to 05.00PM
Property ID No	IDIB6573035890

QR Code

Bank Website www.indianbank.in | E-auction website | Document (Sale Notice Image) | Property Location | Photos of Property

Contact Person:
1. Rajesh Nandan, 9130064351
2. KEERTHANA B, 9449864121

Indian Bank, Bangarpet Branch Ph. No:9449864136

Sl No.2: Name of the Borrowers:1) M/s SHIVA SHAKTHI AGENCIES, Prop Mr Prashanth Kumar S, No 5064/1, Rajendra Layout KGF Main Road, Bangarpet 563 114 2) Mr Prashanth Kumar S S/o Sree Ramaiah, No 5064/1, Rajendra Layout KGF Main Road, Bangarpet 563 114
Amount Recovery : Rs. 58,47,465/- (Rupees fifty eight lakhs forty seven thousand four hundred sixty five only) (as on 06.03.2025) with further interest & Charges . Detailed description of the Property: All the piece and parcel of the Residential Building Premises constructed on part of site bearing No.53, measuring East to West : 30' North to South : 30' totally measuring 900 square feet, formed out of alienated Sy. No 89, Vide conversion order No. ALN.11/1972-73, dated 27.11.1972, bearing old V P Khatha No. 569/3, and 570, Present Town Municipal Khatha No. 2458/5118, bearing PID No. 37-524-74, Situated ay Deshihalli Municipal Limits, Bangarpet Town, Bangarpet, comes under the limits of Town Municipal Council, Bangarpet, (Earlier within the limits od Deshihalli Village limits) and the same is bounded by : East : Remaining Portion of Property of BM Venkatesh West : Road ,North : Road ,South: Site No. 54 .

Encumbrances on property	NIL
Reserve Price	Rs.40,00,000/-
EMd Amount	Rs. 4,00,000/-
Bid incremental amount	Rs.10,000/-
Date and time of e-auction	26.03.2025 at 10.00 am to 5.00pm
Property ID No	IDIB6305730369

QR Code

Bank Website www.indianbank.in | E-auction website | Document (Sale Notice Image) | Property Location | Photos of Property

Contact Person:
1. (Mr. C Sachidananda _ 9449864136)
2. (Mr. Yougesh_9449864109)

Indian Bank, Sultanpalya Branch Ph. No:9449864134

Sl No.3: Name of the Borrowers:Mr Girish N (Borrower and Mortgagor) S/o Shri T N Murry 2) 2) Mrs Sumathi N (co borrower) W/o N Girish 1)Address 1: Ramanuja Enclave" apartment flat no C-106 Ground Floor, C-Bloack property bearing Sy No 80,BBMP Khata No 4260/431/80 Kodipalya Main Road Kengeri village kengeri hobli Bengaluru -560060. Address 2: 2nd Block 3rd 'A' Cross,4Th main Shakthi Nagar Mysuru-570029 Address 3: No 506,4th floor, Malnad Arcade SCT ollege Kaggadasapura Main RoadViganangar Bangalore Bangalore 560075
Amount Recovery : Rs 55,40,325 (Rupees Fifty five thousand forty thousand three hundred twenty five Only) (as on 06.03.2025) with further interest & Charges . Detailed description of the Property:Schedule A Property:All the Piece and parcel of the property bearing converted land vide conversion order dated 12.04.2004 passed by Special Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) in no, BDS.ALN(s)SR(KT): 171/2003-04 in Sy no 80 of Kengeri Village, Kengeri Hobli Bangalore South Taluk measuring 3 acres ¼ Guntas or 1,30,953 sqft presently BBMP Khatha no 4290/431/80 and bounded on:East by: Road heading from Kengeri to Hemmigepura and then property purchased by Smt. Geetha , West by: Private Property thereafter Vrushabhavathi River,North by: Pathway heading from Kengeri to Hemmigepura,South by: Private property, Kadirappa's Land.
Schedule B Property:520 sqft of undivided share right title and interest in the land in the Schedule 'A' property
Schedule C Property:A Residential apartment 2BHK bearing no C-106 in the Ground Floor 'C' Block of the building constructed and known as 'Ramanuja Enclave' with a super built up area of 1230 sqft along with one covered car parking no C-106 in the basement with proportionate share in common areas such as passages lobbies lift and staircase etc contained in the multistoried building constructed on the Schedule 'A' Property
East : Open Space,West : Entrance and Corridor,North : Open Space,South : Flat No. C-105

Encumbrances on property	NIL
Reserve Price	Rs 36,00,000/-
EMd Amount	Rs 3,60,000/-
Bid incremental amount	Rs.10,000/-
Date and time of e-auction	26.03.2025 at 10.00 am to 5.00pm
Property ID No	IDIB6568439890

QR Code

Bank Website www.indianbank.in | E-auction website | Document (Sale Notice Image) | Property Location | Video of property | Photos of Property

Contact Person: 1. Mr. ABHINAY KUMAR REDDY-9449864134
2. Mrs. NEHA SAINI-9449864107

Bidders are advised to visit the website (https://www.baanknet.in) of our e auction service provider PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance Please call 8291220220. For Registration status and for EMD status please email to support.ebkray@psballiance.com.
For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: https://www.baanknet.in and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd, Contact No. 8291220220.
Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with https://www.baanknet.in

Date : 07.03.2025
Place :. Bangalore

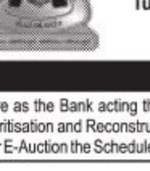
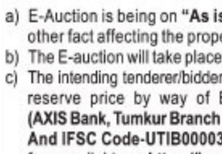
Sd/-Authorised Officer,
Indian Bank

THE HANUMANTHANAGAR CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.,

H.O. : # 7/29, 3rd Main Road, 1st Cross, Hanumanthanagar, Bangalore-560 019,
Telephone: 080-22428985, 26507976

POSSESSION NOTICE (Rule 8(1) (for immovable property)

Whereas the undersigned being the authorized officer of the **Hanumanthanagar Co-operative Bank Limited.,** H.O. : # 7/29, 3rd Main Road, 1st Cross, Hanumanthanagar, Bangalore - 560 019 under the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Ordinance, 2002 (Ord.3 of 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued and demand notice calling upon the undersigned borrowers/legal heirs to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The borrowers/legal heirs having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers/legal heirs and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Ordinance read with rule 8 of the said rule. The borrowers / legal heirs in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property an any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **The Hanumanthanagar Co-op. Bank Ltd.,** Head Office No.7/29, 3rd Main Road, 1st Cross, Hanumanthanagar, Bangalore - 560 019.

Loanee Name	Balance Amount, Possession Date and Property Address	SCHEDULE
 Sri.Srinivasa.R Sri.Shivakumar (Surety Holder)	Demand Notice Dated 23-09-2024 Posession Notice Dated 03-03-2025 Balance Outstanding : Rs.18,52,852/- as on 03-03-2025 SCHEDULE All that piece and parcel of the property bearing No.1046, situated at Kamalanagar Sy.No.46, Anjaneya Gudda, Saneguruvanahalli Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, now comes under Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (Kamalanagar Range) Bangalore with PID No.16-70-1046.	East to West : 34'-00" Feet North to South : 20'-00" Feet East by : Property bearing Site No.34, West by : Road, North by : Property bearing Site No.1047, South by : Private Property.
 Smt.Rani & Sri.Ravikumar Smt.Shanthala Shanupathi.K.R (Surety Holder)	Demand Notice 02-01-2025 Possession Notice Dated 03-03-2025 Balance Outstanding : Rs.15,39,126/- as on 03-03-2025 SCHEDULE All that piece and parcel of the property bearing No.117, (formed out of Vishwabharathi Housing Complex Layout Sy.No.7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 26, 28, 29, 30 and 32 of Avalahalli Village and Sy.No.88, 99, 100 and 102 of Hosakerehalli Village) situated at Phase III of Vishwabharathi Housing Society Layout, Avalahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Now comes under Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Ward No.41 (Gali Anjaneya Temple Range) Bangalore with PID No.41-180-117.	East to West : 54'-00" + 30'-00" Feet 2 North to South : 52'-00" + 40'-00" Feet 2 East by : Private Property, West by : Property bearing Site No.118, North by : Private Property, South by : Road.

Place: Bengaluru
Date 03-03-2025

Sd/- (Krishna G N)
Authorised Officer and General Manager (Incharge)
The Hanumanthanagar Co-operative Bank Limited,
Bangaluru-560019.

VYSYA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.,

Administrative Office: Dr.Sri Sri ShivakumaraSwamiji Circle, B.H.Road, Tumkur-572102, Ph: 0816-2279934, E-Mail: vcbltkr@gmail.com, ao@vcbltkr.com
BVK Iyengar Road Branch, #349, "KOMARLA TOWERS", 2nd Floor, Balepete Circle, OTC Road, Bengaluru-560053.

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Where as the Bank acting through its Chief Executive Officer / Authorised Officer, in exercise of its powers under Section 13(4) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI) has decided to put up for E-Auction the Schedule property for realization of the debts due to the Bank, upon the following terms and conditions:

Conditions of E-Auction

a) E-Auction is being on **"As is where is" and "What is there is"** and the Bank is not responsible for title, condition or any other fact affecting the property.
b) The E-auction will take place through portal **www.auctionbazaar.com.** at the Date and Time as mentioned below:-
c) The intending tenderer/bidder shall deposit with the Authorised Officer/ Chief Executive Officer an amount equivalent to 10% of reserve price by way of Earnest Money Deposit in the account of, **Vysya Co-Operative Bank Ltd., Tumkuru (AXIS Bank, Tumkur Branch by Demand Draft or NEFT/RTGS to Axis Bank, Tumkur Current Account No.343010200006460. And IFSC Code-UTIB0000343)** at the Date and Time as mentioned below at the same time bidder has to submit the e-bid form available on **https://bankauctions.in/** before the date and time mentioned below and shall obtain written receipt thereof from the branch/ Authorised Officer/ Chief Executive Officer.
d) Bidder should have valid digital signature certificate (Class- ii/iii) to participate in the e-auction. For details with regards to digital signature, registration and training may please contact **M/s 4Closure, Hyderabad. Contact Details: 08142000061/66 and +91-9515160061 (Bengaluru) Email ID: info@bankauctions.in and subbarao@bankauctions.in, lokesh@bankauctions.in.**
e) The particulars specified in Schedule have been stated to the best of information of the Bank and the Bank will not be answerable for any error, mis-statement or omission.
f) For the reasons recorded, it shall be in the EMD submitted by bidders and the Bank would not entertain any claim or any representation in that regard from the bidders.
g) The person declared to be the successful bidder shall deposit 25% (twenty five percent) of sale price, less EMD deposited immediately and remaining amount shall be paid within 15 days from the date of auction. In case of failure to adhere any payment schedule, the amount paid will be forfeited and Authorise Officer will be at liberty to cancel the auction and conduct fresh auction.
h) On receipt of the entire sale consideration the Authorised Officer shall issue the Sale Certificate and the sale shall be complete thereafter and the Bank shall entertain no claims.
I) Nothing in this notice constitutes or will be deemed to constitute any commitment or representation on the part of the Bank to sell the property. Bank reserves the right to cancel the sale for any reason it may deem fit or even without assigning any reason and such cancellation shall not be called in question by the bidders.

1. Name and address of the Borrower and Guarantor/Co-Obligant: (1) M/s Rohini Agency, No.44, A M Lane Basetty Pet, B V K Iyengar Road Cross, Bengaluru-560 053. **Represented by its partners (a) D V Vinod Kumar** S/o D L Venkatesh, **(b) Mr. D V Raghavendra** S/o D L Venkatesh, R/o No.20, 5th Cross, Gandhi Nagar, Bengaluru-560009. **Guarantors (1) Sri D L Venkatesh** S/o Late D.S.Lakshmansa. **(2) Sri D L Somashekar** S/o Late D.S.Lakshmansa, **(3) Sri D L Krishna** S/o Late D.S.Lakshmansa. All are R/o No.20, 5th Cross, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru-560009.
The secured debt for the recovery of which the movable/ immovable secured asset is to be sold: A/c No. (1) 10080450000308 of Rs.1,56,42,921/- (2) A/c 1008022000036 Rs. 2,67,86,194/- (3) A/c No.10080450000335 Rs. 95,96,244/-. Total Rs. 5,20,25,359=00 (Rupees Five Crore Twenty Lakh Twenty Five Thousand Three Hundred and Fifty Nine Only)as on 04.12.2024 further interest and expenses.
Description of the Immovable Property: All the piece and parcel of property bearing Municipal No.325, (Old No.822) situated at OTC Road (Kacheri Road) Chickpet, Bangalore City, now property comes under the administrative jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, PID No.28-1-325, New PID No.109-W0090-177, measuring East to West 19 ½ Feet and North to South 28 Feet in all measuring 548.805 Sq.ft., and building constructed thereon and bounded on the: East by: Property belongs to Vijayalakshmi Talkies and fancy silk house, West by: Anjaneya Swamy Temple, North by: OTC Road, South by: Property belongs to Vijayalakshmi Talkies Vacant Land.

Reserve Price : Rs.4,15,53,000/- EMD Price : Rs.41,55,300/-
Date & Time of auction : 26.03.2025 at 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM (with 10 min unlimited auto extensions)

Last date for submission of EMD & e-Bid Form : On or before 25.03.2025 before 4.30 PM.
E auction website - https://bankauctions.in, Increment value Rs.50,000/- & such multiples

Contact Persons: Chief Executive Officer: Ph: 0816-2279934 and Branch Manager: 9900023908 & 080-22389263, OR Mr. Shivashankar A Mob: 9480401348 (M/s Supreme Enforcement Services)

Date: 08.03.2025
Place: Bangalore

Sd/- Authorised Officer / Chief Executive Officer
Vysya Co-operative Bank Ltd., A.O. Office, B.H.Road, Tumkur.

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank

Agriculture Finance Branch
Ph:080-22223249
Email: cb2373@canarabank.com

DEMAND NOTICE

NOTICE TO BORROWER/ GUARANTOR/MORTGAGOR

Whereas, the Authorized Officer of the **Canara Bank, Agriculture Finance Branch,** under the Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (2)of Chapter-3 of the Security Interest(Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice/s on below mentioned date, calling upon the following borrower/s/ Guarantor/s to repay the dues within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

Name of the Borrower: Smt. Manjula, K., W/o Late Nanjappa, Gonurukoppa Village, Lakkuru Hobli,Malur Taluk, Kolar District 577126, **Also at: Smt. Manjula, K,** C/o Vinod N,Dhanu nilaya, Abdulla Layout, Araleri Road, Malur 563130, **Also at: Smt. Manjula, K,** C/o Vinod N, Kalpavruksha, Near Rangam Choultry, Maruthi Extension, Malur 563130

Sl. No	Loan Number	Nature of Loan/ Limit	Date of Sanction	Amount
1	184002726773	Poultry Term Loan	18.05.2023	Rs.50,00,000/-
2	128001316588	AL OCC	18.05.2023	Rs.30,00,000/-

Total Liability as on **29.06.2024** : **Rs. 78,66,239** (Rupees Seventy-Eight Lakhs Sixty-Six Thousand Two HundredThirty-Nine Only) together with further interest and incidental expenses and costs

Details of Security Assets :

1. All the piece and parcel of agriculture land bearing Sy.No. 117 new 117/1 measuring to an extent of 26 ½ guntas situated at **Gonurukoppa Village, Lakkuru Hobli, Malur Taluk, Kolar District** along with poultry plant & machinery bounded on East by: Road, West by: Property of Ananda, North by: Property of Srinivas, South by: Property of G Ashok
Name of the Title deed holder: Smt. Manjula, K.,
2.All the piece and parcel of bearing Sy.No. 117 new 117/2 measuring to an extent of 13 ½ guntassituated at **Gonurukoppa Village, Lakkuru Hobli, Malur Taluk, Kolar District** along with poultry plant & machinery bounded on East by: Road, West by: Property of Ananda North by: Property of Srinivas, South by: Property of G Ashok.
Name of the Title deed holder: Smt. Manjula, K.,
Date of NPA: 28.02.2025 **Demand Notice Date:03.03.2025**

The above borrowers committed default of repayment of loans as above and the loans are duly secured by way of mortgage of property described as above and were classified as Non Performing Assets on various dates mentioned as above. The Bank issued Registered notice to all the above borrower/Guarantors under Section 13(2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, (SARFAESI Act) calling upon them to repay the outstanding amount. We now call upon to pay the above mentioned liability with further interest and cost accrued till date within 60 days from the date of this notice, failing which, Bank will be constrained to exercise its rights of enforcement of security interest as per Section 13(4) (a) to (b) of SARFAESI act 2002 against the secured assets given in the schedule above. The above borrower/s in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the above properties and restrained from dealing in term of Section 13 (13) of SARFAESI Act 2002 and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of Canara Bank for the accounts mentioned above with further interest and cost, expenses thereon.

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

Place : Bangalore
Date : 03.03.2025

IISc's AI, robotics set to revolutionise IVF success

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

WITH declining fertility and delayed pregnancies driving demand for assisted reproductive technologies (ART), IISc researchers are working on new solutions to improve IVF success rates.

Current IVF success rates remain at just 30-40%, highlighting the need for technological advancements. While fertility clinics are working on improving procedures, researchers from IISc's Department of Mechanical Engineering have developed SpOvum Technologies, a startup aimed at making ART more precise. The company was founded by IISc researchers Santosh Bhargav and Ramnath Babu, who were working under faculty member GK Ananthasuresh in the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

A key challenge in IVF is the fertilisation procedure itself. Currently, embryologists use Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI), a technique that requires manually injecting a single sperm into an egg using a glass micropipette. However, this method is nearly 30 years old. SpOvum has developed ROBO-ICSI, a gripper-based technique that stabilises the egg cell using a robotic hand while sperm injection takes place. This approach reduces the risk of harm to the egg and simplifies the process. The company is also working on automated systems to select the best sperm and embryos using computer-aided semen analysis (CASA) and quantitative embryo assessment techniques.

AI is also transforming IVF by reducing human subjectivity in embryo selection. AI can analyse time-lapse videos of developing embryos, identify crucial morphological features, and assist in selecting the best one for implantation. "Studies show that AI systems perform on par with senior embryologists," said Keshav Malhotra, vice-chairman of Embryology at the Indian Society of Assisted Reproduction. AI also helps assess egg and sperm quality and can detect rare but serious errors, such as sample mix-ups. IISc researchers are also studying the fundamental biology of IVF. Srimonta Gayen's lab at the Department of Developmental Biology and Genetics is investigating epigenetic differences between naturally conceived and IVF embryos.

Edigas' meet brings together 26 sub-sects

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

A Chintan-Manthan Sabha was held on Saturday, bringing together 26 major subsects of the Ediga community, including Billava, Namadhari and Dheevara, to chart a course for their advancement.

Spiritual leaders Vikhyatananda Swamiji and Sri Pranavananda Swamiji, along with prominent political figures like senior MLC BK Hariprasad, former Telangana minister Srinivas Goud, former ministers and MLAs V Sunil Kumar and Srinath and various community leaders from across Karnataka too part.

The gathering resolved to organise a South India-level convention to unite Ediga, Eelava, Nadar, Billava, Bhandari, Namadhari, Dheevara, and other followers of Narayana Guru's principles. At least five lakh people are expected to take part.

A delegation of state leaders will meet Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to seek implementation of their demands.

Losing sleep? Half of B'lureans sleeping less than 6 hrs

ENS @Bengaluru

BENGALURU residents are struggling with sleep deprivation, with 56% individuals reportedly getting less than six hours of uninterrupted sleep each night, revealed a recent survey conducted by LocalCircles ahead of the World Sleep Day (March 14).

The survey titled- 'How India Sleeps 2025,' which gathered responses from 5,563 individuals in the city, highlights a growing concern about poor sleep quality and its potential health risks.

Among those surveyed, 47% reported sleeping only 4-6 hours per night, while 9% managed even less than four hours. As per the findings, only 3% of respondents received the recommended 8-10 hours of sleep.

The survey found that the most common reason for sleep interruptions was waking up to use the washroom. This was followed by late bedtimes and early morning household schedules, mobile calls and notifications, and external disturbances like noise. Partner or child-related interruptions and uncomfortable bedding also contributed to disturbed sleep. Moreover, 17% of respondents stated that they simply couldn't sleep for eight hours straight, even without specific disturbances.

To compensate for their sleep deficit, people in their responses mentioned that they take afternoon naps on Sundays, extend their sleep hours on weekends, and try to recover lost rest on holidays. However, about 28% admitted they are unable to make up for their lack of sleep at all, leading to long-term sleep deficits.

The study linked sleep deprivation to a higher risk of cardiovascular diseases, weight gain, type 2 diabetes, and impaired cognitive function. The findings underscore the urgent need for better sleep hygiene and increased awareness about sleep-related health risks among Bengaluru's residents.

A similar trend was observed across India, with 59% of respondents reporting less than six hours of uninterrupted sleep. The survey gathered over 43,000 responses from 348 districts nationwide indicate that 61% of respondents were men and 39% were women.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, Sri. V. Shiva S/o Sri. Vijayarangam, **residing at No.21, I Main, II cross, Ramachandrapuram, Sriramapuram, Bangalore** is the absolute owner of the property described in the Schedule hereunder.

It is brought to the notice of the general public that, our client has negotiated and decided to purchase the Schedule Property from the above said owner/attorney. All persons having any claim against or to the Schedule Property or any part thereof by way of inheritance, mortgage, sale, conveyance, MOU, Agreement to Sell, G.P.A, transfer, lease deed, tenancy, license, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, exchange, possession, adverse possession or otherwise howsoever are hereby required to submit the same in writing along with documentary proof to the undersigned at their office **within 15 days from the date of publication hereof**, failing which our client shall proceed without any reference to such claim and the same, if any, will be considered as waived.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No.1396, in the Arkavathi layout formed by Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) carved out of Sy No.100/4, situated at Rachenahalli Village, Krishnarajapura Hobli-2, at 11th Block, having PID No.5228110059 measuring East to West 6.00 Meters and North to South 9.00 meters, admeasuring 54.00 Square and bounded on the: **East by** : Site No.1395, **West by** : Site No.1397, **North by:** Road, **South by** : Site No.1419.

Sri. CHENNAKESHAVA B.S. Advocate
"H & C Law Chambers" No.64/1,
5th Floor, ASVNV Bhavan ,K.G. Road
Bangalore - 560009, M-98866 72352.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public are hereby informed that, my client is negotiating the terms of purchase with Smt.Sarasamma.M, W/o late H.Puttaswamy, aged about 72 years, residing at No.122, MM Plaza, II Stage, II Phase, M.L.Puram, Bangalore-560 086, in respect of the schedule property.

Person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or having any right, title or interest in the schedule property stated below may lodge their objections in writing with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence for such claim **within 7 days** from this date.

Person/s having filed any case/s in respect of the schedule property are also informed to lodge their objections with documentary proof in writing **within 7 days** from the date of this publication. Any objections received thereafter will not be binding on my client and my client will proceed to purchase the schedule property as if there are no claims/objections.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of Site bearing No.965, PID No.6000012927 in the layout approved by the Bangalore Development Authority in several survey numbers in Kodigehalli, Kothihosahalli and Byatarayanapura Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, named as Rajivgandhinagar N.T.I. layout 2nd Phase, Bangalore-560 097. The said site is carved out of survey No.39/3 of Kothihosahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, total area 5880 sq.feet or 653.33 sq.yards or 546.26 square Mtrs, measuring East to West: 82 feet +65 feet/2 or 24.99 Mtrs + 19.82 Mtrs/2, North to South: 80 feet, bounded on: **East by** : Site No.966, **West by** : Private property, **North by** : Site No.961; **South by** : Road

D. H. MOKHASHI & ASSOCIATES, Advocate, No .831, Jaya Shanthi Nele, 2nd Floor, 1st E Main Road, Girinagar 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560085. Mobile No.9845498591, Ph: 26720175.
Date: 09.03.2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, **Ranjitha N. C** D/o Chandrashekar N.S aged about 24 years Residing at Nalluru Village, Hanumanahalli Post, Duggasandra Hobli, Mulabagul Taluk, Kolar District - 563127. I have lost my Original documents in kolar, dated 25.2.2025, Documents like I. e, 10th Marks Card (SSLC) Register No. 20150346869, April - 2015, 2nd PUC Passing Certificate Register No. 776703 Passing Year Mark 2017. and BSc Passing Certificate in Bangalore Central University Register No. S1815209 in no 6 Marks Cards (total 6 Semesters) in year December - 2018 to September - 2021. Bachelor of Science Convocation Certificate issued by Bangalore city university, Register No. S1815209 Year of Examination September 2021. Regarding this police complaint Lose Report No. 1498023/2025 dated 27.2.2025 has been lodged in online e lost portal, If anybody finds these documents please inform above address or below mentioned Contact Number.

Ranjitha N. C
9901823141

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Sri. M. NARAYANAPPA,** S/o. Sri. Muniswamappa, Aged about 51 years, R/at. No. 3, Manjunatha Nilaya, 1st Block, 15th Cross, Akshyanagar, T.C. Palya Main Road, Bangalore 560016, is intending to purchase the Schedule property from its owner **Sri. MUNINARASIMHAPPA,** S/o. Nallappa, Aged about 95 years, R/at. No. 447, Mulabagilu, Harijana Colony, Devanahalli, Bangalore Rural - 562110, For Valuable Consideration. Any persons having any rights/claims/objections/Minor Claims, in respect of the schedule property are hereby requested to send their objections to the above mentioned address within 7 days, from the receipt of this public notice. If no objections are forth coming within 7 days, my clients shall get executed sale deed in his favour.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property land bearing Survey No. 49/14, (old Sy. No. 49/2A) situated at Devanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Measuring 00 Acre 16 Guntas, and bounded on the

East by : Property of Krishnappa,
West by : NH-7 Road
North by : Property of Jayaram,
South by : Property of Anil Erani.

Mr. Manjunath Reddy, B.A., LLB.,
Smt. T. Shobha Reddy, B.Sc., LLB.,
No. 8/7, Mega City BEML Layout Road,
Maragondanahalli Main Road,
K.R. Puram Post, Bangalore-36.
Ph:- 9620890099, 9845520830, 7353233778.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that my client Sri. Rajashekar Venkatappa Reddy @ T.V.Rajashekar s/o Sri.M. Venkatappa Reddy, residing No. 228, 9th Main, 1st Block, HRBR Layout, Bangalore North - 560043, hereby informs that, the Sale Deed dated 04.08.2006, registered as Document Number: YAN-1-10190-2006-07, stored in CD No.YAND215, of Book I, in the Office of the Senior Sub-Registrar Yelahanka , Bangalore, have been lost/misplaced while my client was traveling at K.G. Road, near Mysore Bank Circle on 06.03.2025.

My client has also lodged a police complaint bearing Lost Report No. 1510020/2025 on 07.03.2025 before Bengaluru City Police. Any person/s in possession of the aforesaid document may return the same to me or anyone having any sort of claim over the said property may lodge their objections in writing **within 7 days** from this day to the undersigned.

Sri. CHENNAKESHAVA B.S. Advocate
"H & C Law Chambers" No.64/1,
5th Floor, ASVNV Bhavan ,K.G. Road
Bangalore - 560009, M-98866 72352.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby notified that my clients' Sri. **T. M. RAMESH**, S/o. Late T. M. Narayana & Sri. **PARAG**, S/o. Sri. Prabhakar, are interested to purchase the property mentioned in the Schedule hereunder, from its owner, **Sri. ARAVIND. G. C.,** S/o. Sri. S. G. Chandrashekar.

Any person/s having any right in or title to or claim against the Schedule Property or having any objection of whatsoever nature for the proposed sale transaction may within **07 (Seven) days** hereof lodge with the under signed his/her claim in this behalf together with the relevant documentary proof in support of such right, title interest or claim or objection. If no such claim or objection is received within the above said period, it will be presumed that, no person has any such claim or objection & my client will proceed with the said transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF the ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF vacant, immovable, residential property bearing Site No.31/28, formed in Sy. No.8, duly converted by the order of the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore, vide Official Memorandum bearing No. BDS.ALN.SR(S)106/2004-05, dated 03-06-2004, situated at Vaddarapalya Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring East to West : (30+32)/2 Feet, and North to South : (48+40)/2 Feet, totally measuring 1364 Square Feet, and bounded on:- East by: Site No.27, West by : Site No.29, North by Site No.24 and South by : 40 feet Road.

Sd/- **NAGARAJA KUMBLE** M.A., LL.B.
#55, 4th Main, BEML 3rd stage,
Rajarajeshwari Nagar,
BANGALORE - 560 098. Ph: 92424 17700

TAMIL NADU POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LTD
Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

AMENDMENT / ERRATA

Published in the Indian Express on 08.03.2025

Specification No.		Tender Inviting Authority	Published	Read As
Published	Read As			
2	3	CE/PROJECTS	Name of Work : NCTPP Stage III - additional silos and PDFAC for fly ash evacuation	Name of Work : 1x800MW, NCTPP Stage-III - Carrying out the works (Left out, partially completed & sub-standard works) of BOP package of NCTPP-III, 3 nos additional silos and PDFAC for fly ash evacuation.

For details of Works / Procurement / Due date of submission / opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit websites: www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app, www.tnpdcl.org, www.mstcecommerce.com/eprochome/tneb, www.tenders.tn.gov.in

DIPR/940/Tender/2025

WORKS DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, EASTERN CIRCLE (R&B), BALASORE

e-mail: - seec_bls@rediffmail.com

Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice

B- **Bid Identification No.CCEEC- 12/2024-25**
No: 931 Dt:07/03/2025

Nature of work :-**Building Works.**
Number of works :- **01 Nos Building Work.**
Amount put to Tender : - **Rs.113.55 lakh**
Class of Contractor : - **"B" & "A" Class.**
Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal: - **Dt.18.03.2025 at 10:00 AM**
Last Date / Time of receipt of bid in the portal: - **Dt.02.04.2025 up to 05:00 PM**
Date of opening of bid : - **Dt.03.04.2025 at 11:00 AM**
Name & address of the Office inviting bid: - **Chief Construction Engineer, Eastern Circle (R&B), Balasore**

The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "http//tendersodisha.gov.in." All future corrigendum will be available on ONLINE mode only.

Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer
Eastern Circle (R&B) Balasore

OIPR-34026/11/0009/2425

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCIAL TAXES
Vanijya Therigegala Karyalaya-1, Gandhinagara, Bengaluru-560 009. Helpline Number: 080-22205239

No: JCCT/HRD/CR-12/2024-25 Date: 28-02-2025

NOTIFICATION

The Commercial Taxes Department has released five Video bytes to create awareness about the GST Amnesty Scheme. The tax payers and Stake holders to avail the benefit of GST Amnesty Scheme. The Applicants needs to file separate application for the financial years 2017-18, 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 to make full payment of tax **before 31-03-2025.** The last date for filing application on the GST Online Portal is **30-06-2025.** The said five GST video bytes are hosted on the departmental website: **gst.kar.nic.in** and also YouTube address ctd.karnataka.

The trade bodies and stake holders are requested to watch and circulate the same among the trading community to create awareness regarding GST Amnesty Scheme.

Sd/-
Commissioner of Commercial Taxes, (Karnataka), Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/5405/MAA/2024-25

DOCUMENT LOST

I, Sunil Bansal , Residing at Flat 303, Victoria 2 Apartment, 7th cross, Patel Rama Reddy school, Domlur layout Bangalore, Karnataka - 560071. Lost My Original Absolute Sale Deed DOCUMENT NO : 3151/2001-02, Files in VOL SNGR CDNo. 22, Book 1 dt. 09/11/2001 & Rectification Deed DOCUMENT NO.: 3907/2001-02, VOL SNGR CD NO. 22, Book 1 dt.03/1/2002 at Registrar, Shivajinagar, Bangalore. Finders Please Contact : MR. SUNIL BANSAL. Mobile: 9538402215.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, have lost/misplaced the following originals, viz., **(1) GIFT DEED** dated 20-09-2001, executed by **G.V.RAMACHANDRAN** in favour of **G.R.VENKATAGIRI,** registered as document No.2543/2001-02, of Book-I, Volume – 2342, at pages 58 to 63, in the office of Sub Registrar, Vijayanagar, Bangalore, and **(2) KHATA CLUBBING/AMALGAMATION ORDER** issued by A.R.O. Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, in respect of property bearing No. BBMP PID No.33-8-72/A, and No.33-08-72/1, in Ward No.123 – VIJAYANAGAR, situated **at 6th Main, Vijayanagar, Bangalore,** and A police complaint has been lodged on **08-03-2025,** before **VIJAYANAGAR POLICE STATION,** complaining about loss/misplacement of the SAME. If any person/s, Institution/s, Bank/s, Firm/s, etc., were to trace or holding the SAID DOCUMENTS, or having any sorts of right, title and interest on the said property, the same may be informed/communicated to me or to the nearest Police Station.

P.S.LATHA, 64 years,
w/o. late P.N.Sathyamurthy,
No.706, 1st Floor, 6th Main,
Vijayanagar, BANGALORE – 560040.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client intended to purchase the Schedule Property from 1) SMT. CHOWDAMMA Wife of Late Venkataramanappa 2) SRI BALAKRISHNA Son of Late Venkataramanappa, 3)SRI LOKESH K.V. Son of Late Venkataramanappa, 4)SMT. PUSHPA Wife of Late Krishnappa, Sl.Nos. 1 to 4 are residing at #291, B Block, Kanakapura Main Road, Ramamandira Road, Kaggalipura, Bangalore, Karnataka -560082. 5) SMT. JAYAMMA Wife of Vengadappa, residing at No. 4, Thimmachantra Ooni, Denkanikottai, Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu -635107, 6) SMT SAROJA Wife of Srinivas, residing at No. Kallahalli, Ramanagar, Karnataka -562 117, 7) SMT BHAGYA Wife of Chikkaswamy, residing at Kudure Unthuraiahna Thota, 1st Cross, Malavalli Town, Malavalli, Karnataka -571430 and they have claiming that she is sole absolute owner of the schedule properties, for valuable sale consideration. If any person/s having any claim, right, title, interest, whatsoever over the Schedule Property, may forward his/her/their objections in writing with supporting documents to the undersigned **within SEVEN DAYS** from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which, it will be deemed that, there is no claim, right, title or interest from anybody except the sellers, and my client will proceed for completion of purchase transaction and will get registered the Absolute Sale Deed of schedule property in their names.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property bearing Sy.No. 315 (Western Side), measuring 25.84 guntas, Converted for non-agricultural residential purpose vide Official Memorandum No. ALN(S)(U) SR: 36/10-11 dated 28.05.2010, situated at Kaggalipura Village, Uttarahali Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk and bounded on:

East by : Remaining part of Sy.No. 315
West by : Land in Sy.No. 312
North by : Land in Sy.No. 316
South by : Land of the First Party in Sy.No. 312.
South by : Land in Sy.No. 473/7

K.V. SHYAMA PRASADA, Advocate
No.100, II Floor 14 th Cross, Kilari Road,
Bangalore-560 053. Date : 08.03.2025

Pro. No. 3753, Dt. 03/03/25
PAPER PUBLICATION
UNDER ORDER 5 RULE 20 OF CPC

SHOW CAUSE NOTICE
(Form No. Gen 111)

IN THE COURT OF JOINT CIVIL JUDGE SENIOR DIVISION, NAGPUR
Room No.619

M.J.C. No. 438/2019
Fixed for : 08/04/2025

Applicant :- Chandrashekhar Brijmohan Mor
- Versus -
Non-Applicant : Anjana Madan Pathrabe and other

To,
3) Sunil Kumar Brijmohan Mor, R/o. Azim Premji Foundation next to wipro Corporate office, Surjapur Road, Banglore - 560037.

Whereas the above-named Applicant has made **Application For Restoration of the Civil Suit** you are hereby warned to appear in this Court in person or by a pleader duly instructed on the **08/04/2025** at 11.00 O'clock in the forenoon, to show cause against the application, failing wherein the said application will be heard and determined ex parte.

Also take notice that in default of your filing an address for service on or before the date mentioned you are liable to have your defense struck out.

Given under my hand and the seal of the court, that **18th day of March, 2025.**

Seal By Order of the Court
Asstt. Supdt. (T.W.)
Court of Civil Judge Sr. Dn., Nagpur.

IN THE COURT OF THE VI ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSION JUDGE [CCH-11] AT BENGALURU
OS NO. 5929/2023

Between:1. Sri. M Devaraj S/o Late M Muniswamy @ M Muniswamappa age 64 years
2. Smt. Spoorthi D/o M Devaraj aged about 33 years **3. Sri. Shreyas** D/o M Devaraj aged about 28 years **4. Lakshmi S** D/o Late Srinivasalu aged about 49 years All are residing at: Pyramid Pinnacle Apartments Flat No.304, & 103 site no.38/2, 17th cross, 35th A main, JP Nagar 6th phase Bangalore-560078 **...Plaintiffs**
And:1. Sri. Dilipkumar Sanwalchand and others **...Defendants**

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT NO.2 U/O 5 RULE 20 OF CPC

Sri. Hitesh Kumar S/o Sri. Ghulmanmalji Jain R/at No.1, Guru Nivas 2nd Floor, 4th Cross, R.T.Street, Chickpet Cross, Banaglore-560053

Whereas, the Plaintiffs has instituted the above suit against the Defendants and you for 'Declaration as to cancellation of Joint Development Agreement' with respect to the suit schedule property and you are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble court in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions related on the **15th day of April 2025 at 11.AM,** failing which, the suit will be heard and disposed in your absence as an ex-parte.

AMALGAMATED SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ITEM NO.1 All the piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing municipal No.13/1(part of larger property bearing No.13/1) PID No.48-92-13/1 measuring
East to West: On northern side: 44 ft.9 inch. On southern side: 67 ft. 3 inch.
North to South: On eastern side: 86 ft. 9 inch. On western side: 97 ft. 3 inch.
Totally measuring to the extent of 5081,41 sq.ft. situated at A.M road, Kalasiplayam, Banaglore-560002 bounded on: **East By:** Common passage
West By: Property of Corporation
North By: Property No.13/2
South By: A.M. Road

ITEM NO.2 All the piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing municipal No.13/2(part of larger property bearing No.13/1) PID No.48-92-13/2 measuring:-
East to West: On northern side: 41 ft.6 inch. On southern side: 44 ft. 9 inch.
North to South: On eastern side: 23 ft. 9 inch. On western side: 25 ft. 9 inch.
Totally measuring to the extent of 1065.53 sq.ft. situated A.M road, Kalasiplayam Banaglore-560002 bounded on: **East By:** Common passage
West By: Property of Corporation
North By: Property of Corporation
South By: Property no.13/1

Given Under my hand and seal of this court on this 7th day of March 2025

By Order of the Court
Sd/-Senior Sheristedar
City Civil Court, Bangalore

Advocate for Plaintiffs:
KISHAN DUTT KALASKAR & D.K. GANGARAJU
Advocates & Consultants
No.74, 1st Floor, 6th Cross Opp. Upadhya skin & ENT Clinic Malleswaram Bangalore-560003.
Ph: 7975852463

PUBLIC NOTICE

That my Client, **Mr. APOLINE MARCEL DSOUZA,** S/o Marcel Dsouza, Residing at C-8, Gold Coin Apartment, Nehru Road, Vakola, Santacruz (East), Mumbai, Maharastra have entered into an Agreement of Sale 01.03.2025 in respect of Property bearing Municipal No.32, PID No.47-80-32, situated at Fort B Road, Bangalore, measuring East to West 70 feet and North to South 21 feet, in all measuring1470 square feet and bounded on, East by: Road, West by: Passage, North by: J.B. Kote Subbaiah's House and South by: Sunkada Appajayya's House. Any person/shaving any right, title or interest or claim against said property should the send their claims in writing to the undersigned along with documentary evidence in support of the said claim thereof **within 10 days** of publication to this Notice, failing which claims if any shall be deemed to have been waived.

K.P. JAYAKRISHNA KEDILAYA, Advocate
No.206, Sri Pearl Park Apartment, R.V.C.E. Post, Mysore Road, Bangalore-560 059.
Cell: 9902039132. Date: 08.03.2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to hereby notify the General Public that My Clients are agreed/intended to Purchase land bearing Old Sy. No. 55/2, New Sy No.55/12, measuring 0.09.08 Guntas, Situated at Turahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore. bounded on: **East by:** Road, **West by:** Same Survey Number property, **North by:** Sy No.51/1 Property and **South by:** Bharath Housing Board Property, free from all encumbrances and my client/s intended to purchase. Any person having any rights, title, interest, claim or demand of any nature whatsoever in respect of said land, is hereby required to make the same known in writing along with the documentary proof thereof, to the undersigned, within fortnight from the date of publication hereof, failing which the negotiations shall be completed without any reference to such claim and the claims if any, shall be deemed to have been given up or waived.

Sri. LAXMINARAYANA .V, Advocate.
No.216, New No. E113, 6th Cross,
Vasanthapura Main Road, Konanakunte Cross, Bangalore-560 111.
Mob: 9108123111

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client **Smt. Jayalakshmi @ Jayalakshmamma,** W/o Late B. Venkataswamy residing at Bidarahalli Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, hereby informs the general public that she has filed case in OS No.44/2023 before the 2nd Addl. Civil Judge, Bangalore Rural District at Bangalore in respect of agricultural land bearing Sy. No. 228/1 & 228/2, totally measuring 4 acres 2 guntas situated **Bidarahalli Village & Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk,** against **Sri. Krishnaiah** and **Sri. Shankarappa** and the same is pending adjudication.

Our client understands **Sri. Krishnaiah, Sri. Shankarappa** along with **Smt. R. Pramila,** are attempting to sell the schedule property based on the fictitious documents.

The general public are hereby informed and cautioned not to deal in any manner in respect of below mentioned schedule property, contrary any person/s deal or deals with them in respect below mentioned schedule property will be doing it, at their own risk, cost and also responsible for the consequences of the transactions. Our client will not be held responsible for the same.

SCHEDULE

All that part and parcel of the **land bearing Sy. No. 228/1 & 228/2 (Earlier Sy. No. 228), totally measuring 4 acres 02 guntas** (including 2 gunta of Kharab) consisting of small house and cattle shed, situated at **Bidarahalli Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk (Formerly South Taluk)** and bounded on:

East by: Property of Rajappa,
West by: Property of Rehman Khan and Ramanna,
North by: Property bearing Sy. 227 of Smt. Jayalakshmi,
South by: Property of Krishnappa.

Sri. S. Vinod, Advocate
M/s. V & V Law Office
Advocates & Legal Consultants
No. 23, J.A. Building, 1st Main, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru-560 020.
Date: 09.03.2025 Place: Bangalore

IN THE COURT OF THE II ACJM BANGALORE RURAL AT BANGALORE
Cri. Mis. No. 232 / 2025

BETWEEN:
MAHADEVA R, S/o Ramachandra, Aged about 28 years, R/at No.30/1,Gadipalya, Tattaguppe, B'lore-82. **...Petitioner**
AND: Thahashildhar, Bangalore South, Bangalore. **...Respondent**

PUBLIC NOTICE

WHEREAS the petitioners above named has made petition to this court Under section 13 (3) of Birth and death Act for the grant of death certificate of petitioner father Ramachandra death on 31-12-2002 intestate.

Interested parties are hereby called to appear in the Court of II Addl Magistrate court Bangalore Rural at Bangalore in person or by pleader duly instructed on **7th April 2025 at 11 a.m.** information to show cause against the petitioners failing wherein the appearance will be heard and consider respondents are Nil.

Given under my hand and seal of this court on this 4th day of March 2025 at Bengaluru.

By Order of the Court
Sd/- Sheristedar
ACJM Bangalore Rural, at Bangalore
Advocate for Plaintiff: Chethana. S.V, Kaggalipura, Bengaluru-560 116.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby notified that, my client **Mr. Puttamma W/o Pappanna,** Residing at: Budigere Village, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore rural District, are the owner of the Kaneshukumari Katha No:778/60/132, and E Katha No 150300201300101478, Issued by Budigere Grama Panchayath, measuring East- West 30 feet North-South 40 feet, Situated at **Budigere Village, comes under Budigere Village Panchayath, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District,** and in respect of the same, my client lost the following Original deed pertains to the said property:

Release deed dated: 20-10-2014, executed by **Anitha.P,** in favour of **Puttamma and Pappanna** which is registered in the office of Sub Registrar, Devanahalli as the document No:05560/2014-15.

In is regard she logged a complainant at Karnataka State Police Station, on 08-03-2025 in report No: 1511550/2025, Finders may return the same to the above said Police Station or to my client or else if anyone has objection in this regard contact me in the below address within **7 days** from today or otherwise it will be treated that no original document is with anyone and also no objection in this regard from anyone.

Mr.Manoj Gowda.P, Advocate,
M.G.P Advocate Associates,
Opp- Mini Vidhana Soudha,
B.B.Road, Devanahalli Town- 562110.

QuoteExpress THE SECRET OF GETTING AHEAD IS GETTING STARTED › MARK TWAIN

CLASSIFIEDS

brides

Wanted Bride

Hindu Nadar, 40yrs/185cm, M.Tech (IIT Madras), Sr. Principal Engineer (Chip Design) in an MNC in Bangalore, eggetarian, teetotaller, seeks never married, suitable bride, Caste No Bar.

Ct: 9840117920.

QuoteExpress OPPORTUNITY DOES NOT KNOCK, IT PRESENTS ITSELF WHEN YOU BEAT DOWN THE DOOR — KYLE CHANDLER

GOVT. OF ODISHA, OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE: KEONJHAR

Email: se_nerwkjr@rediffmail.com

eProcurement Notice for Road with Bridge Work under MMSY-TRIP

Bid Identification No. NCB-39/RWCKJR/2024-25
No.1112 / Date: 03/03/2025

O-1575

1. Name of the work :-Construction and **Maintenance of road under MMSY-TRIP in the District of Keonjhar**
2. No. of work :-01(One) No.
3. Estimated Cost :- As per Annexure in NIT.
4. Class of Contractor (Eligible) :-As per Annexure in NIT.
5. Period of Completion :-As per Annexure in NIT.
6. Other details :-

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/o C.C.E., R.W. Circle, Keonjhar	
		From	To		Technialal Bid	Fiancial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Keonjhar	NCB -39/ RWCKJR/ 2024-25	Dt.10.03.25 at 11.00 A.M	Dt.24.03.25 up to 5.00 P.M	Dt.21.03.25 up to 5.00 P.M	Dt.25.03.25 at 11.00 A.M	Will be intimated later

• **Further details can be seen from the website: www.tendersorissa.gov.in**

Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer, R.W. Circle, Keonjhar

OIPR-25177/11/0053/2425

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BARIPADA

By E Mail/e-Despatch: E_Mail ID : serwcbaripada@gmail.com,
Ph-No-06792-261343/261344, Gangraj, Baripada

O-1579 ***"e" Procurement Notice for Plan Road Work***

Identification No.- Online Tender- Road N.C.B. No. 369 for 2024-25.
Letter No. 973 / Date. 04.03.2025

1. Name of the work :- Road Work in the District of Mayurbhanj for the year 2024-25.
2. Total No. of work :- 01 No. (One)
3. Estimated Cost :- **Rs. 795.30 Lakhs (approximately).**
4. Eligible Class of Contractor : - As per annexure
5. Period of Completion :- As per annexure
6. Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/0 C.C.E.R.W. Circle, Baripada	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Baripada	Road On-line N.C.B. **No. 369**	Dt. 10.03.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	Dt. 24.03.2025 up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt.21.03.2025 up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt. 25.03.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

- **Further details can be seen from the website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in.,**
- **Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the above e_tender website only.**

Sd/-A.K. Nayak
Chief Construction Engineer,
R.W. Circle, Baripada

OIPR-25130/11/0020/2425

DIRECTORATE URBAN TRANSPORT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

The Noida Urban Agglomeration (NUA) comprising urban mobilty areas of NOIDA, GNIDA & YEIDA is planning to launch a dedicated City Bus Services for enhancing the quality of life and increasing last mile connectivity.

To promote green mobility,
The Directorate of Urban Transport, Government of Uttar Pradesh is inviting proposals for **Procurement, Supply, Operation and Maintenance of 500 Electric Buses under Gross Cost Contract (GCC) Model** for NUA

Salient Features

- **Revision of O&M Fee-2% every year.**
- **Annual Assured Bus operation - 72,000 Km.**
- **Payment Assurance 6 months.**
- **Fixed Electricity Tariff.**
- **Ready Depot & Behind - the-meter power infrastructure.**
- **100% Non-Fare Box Revenue.**
- **Incentives under Uttar Pradesh Electric Vehicle Manufacturing and Mobility Policy 2022.**

RFP Document may be downloaded from **https//etender.up.nic.in**

(March 08, 2025 onwards) **Proposal Due Date: 17:00 Hrs; May 16, 2025**

For any clarifications, you may contact:

Manoj Panda, Mob.: +91 98719 79370;
Vinay Singh, Mob.: +91 97936 11444

CONTACT US

Directorate of Urban Transport
Urban Training & Research Center & Directorate of Local Bodies;
Room No. 305, Sector-7, Gomti Nagar Extension, Lucknow-226010.
Email: jdutdgoup@gmail.com

RO No: 230745
RO Dated: 07.03.2025
Website: www.upgov.nic.in

"Beauty is that to what the human mind responds at its deepest and most profound

Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar

DYSFUNCTION, DEBT, DRAG ON EFFICIENCY, EUROPEAN DECLINE

OPINION

SATYAJIT DAS
Former banker and author of *The Age of Stagnation*

AS Europe is discovering, the past is rarely *past*. Weaknesses exposed by the forgotten 2011 European debt crisis remain unresolved.

First, between 2010 and 2023, European GDP grew cumulatively by 21 percent, compared to America's 34 percent. Current forecasts project low annual real growth at around 1-1.5 percent due to low investment in infrastructure, new technologies, research and development, poor productivity improvements, high saving rates and low consumer confidence.

Dependence on exports to compensate for anaemic domestic consumption creates problems. Intra-European trade relies on recycling German savings and trade surpluses to net importing Mediterranean and Eastern European nations to finance purchases of Germany's exports. Germany is now owed over €1 trillion mainly by Italy, France, Spain, Portugal and Greece.

Europe now runs trade deficits with China, a potent competitor with significantly lower costs in semiconductors, white goods, consumer electronics, and automotive, including electric vehicles. Europe's competitiveness is affected by an ageing population (the working-age population is expected to decline 15 percent by 2070) and increasing resistance to immigration to boost the workforce. The replacement of cheap Russian gas imports with expensive US and Gulf LNG has increased costs by 30-40 percent, creating new dependencies.

Social, unemployment and medical insurances add up to 40 percent to labour costs. Europe's unfunded overgenerous welfare state, including relatively early retirement and generous pensions, is unsustainable. Overzealous, complex, overlapping regulations are a drag on efficiency. Brussels' intervention adheres to the principle of all extraneous bureaucracies—self-perpetuation and mission creep.

Second, the EU's government gross debt is nearly 88 percent of GDP crimping flexibility. The highest debt levels are Greece (164 percent), Italy (137 percent), France (112 percent), Belgium (108 percent), Spain (105 percent), and Portugal (101 percent). Due to its legislated debt brake, which limits borrowing but may be loosened, Germany's debt to GDP is a more modest 62 percent, but it has substantial unfunded pension liabilities. The EU's own separate debt is expected to reach €900 billion by the end of 2026 to fund coronavirus recovery programmes and support for Ukraine.

Third, the Euro's structural flaws continue. The inability to devalue or set individual monetary policy limits the flexibility of members with different requirements. At the same time, there is no common fiscal policy because of Germany's reluctance to de facto financial underwrite EU common debt. A currency without a country and states without a sovereign currency severely restrict policy options.

Fourth, security concerns. In the post-World War 2 period, the EU benefitted from modest defence spending, using the US umbrella enshrined in NATO to guarantee its security. After 1989 and the collapse of the Soviet Union, it also gained from a significant peace dividend, diverting funds from defence to more productive sectors, which is now being unwound.

The new US Administration will likely force European countries to increase defence spending substantially, estimated at around €800 billion and bear the bulk of the cost of support for Ukraine. The peace dividend is reversing with the onset of a second cold war. Unless the conflict is resolved, the EU's determination to continue supporting Ukraine in combat and reconstruction will strain its finances and industrial capacity. An additional constraint will be the need to support large numbers of refugees from Ukraine. Continued instability in the Middle East and Africa will result in a steady flow of displaced people into Europe, further pressuring resources.

Finally, political dysfunction, as Germany and France demonstrate, means that Europe is incapable of enacting the policies and reforms needed to manage these pressures. The electorate in member states has fragmented into far right, far left and centrist groupings, often of roughly equal size. Voters, many of whom share a pathological dislike of governments and elite politicians and bureaucrats, have shifted support from traditional parties to more extreme populist movements. Central concerns include sovereignty, immigration and border security, and disagreements on diversity and inclusion. Economic disagreements revolve around living costs, housing, sounder public finances, and expansion or preservation of existing welfare benefits. Even where these parties are unlikely to rule, they now set the political agenda.

Lack of governing majorities means unwieldy and unstable coalitions with contradictory political positions. Victor tyranny and lack of the loser's consent lead to continuous trench warfare, preventing action.

At a transnational level, the EU, where decisions require unanimity or consensus, is paralysed by two divides: North-South (a fiscally conservative Northern Europe against a spendthrift Latin approach) and East-West (a liberal West matched by a socially conservative East).

Problems are moving from the periphery (smaller states) to the EU core (Germany, France, Italy). While Europe's size and wealth make immediate collapse unlikely, the trajectory is one of steady decline punctuated by successive crises, which may prove impervious to the ECB's 'whatever it takes' mantra.

(Views are personal)

HAS THE MEDIA LOST ITS MOJO AND MONEY?

POWER & POLITICS

PRABHU CHAWLA
prabhuchawla@newindianexpress.com
Follow him on X @PrabhuChawla

"In America, the president reigns for four years, and journalism governs forever and ever."
–Oscar Wilde in 1891.

WILDE'S postulation has been turned into a political burlesque. Roles have been reversed. Now, it's the President of the United States of America (POTUS) who rules and reins in the media. As Donald Trump berates, slays and humiliates the journalists and their organisations, the Fourth Estate has been painted as the Filth Estate. The messenger is now the most vulnerable and convenient pilgarlic for the political class worldwide. Editors, reporters, owners and even thought writers face calibrated calumny unleashed by those controlling money and power. The information and communication industry, which survived and thrived only on exposing the truth, reporting without fear or favour and questioning the mighty political monarchs, has been reduced to a medium for distributing handouts, printing press releases, airing pre scripted and edited interviews and devoting prominent space for the opinion pieces ghost written for top leaders from politics and the corporate world. The press and politicians have never been compatible cohabiters before.

Unfortunately, the battle against the free press has been launched ferociously from a nation which swears by freedom of expression. Irked by adverse and unpalatable reporting about his style and substance, a defiant and revengeful POTUS has set the tone for an anti-media tirade all over the world. Soon after winning a decisive mandate in 2024, he was back to what he considers himself to be the best at—media bashing. When a leader of the most powerful and affluent democratic country, like Donald Trump, denigrates media professionals from every platform, it acquires the shape of a contagious disease which spreads like wildfire. In February 2025, President Donald Trump, following a televised clash with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, remarked, "The fake news media twists everything—they're a threat to our democracy when they lie."

If POTUS fumes, he ignites fires in other parts of the democratic world as well. Even Chancellor Olaf Scholz, touted as one of the liberal European leaders, warned at a public meeting: "Freedom of speech ends where it incites violence—social media must be regulated." This paved the way for actions against X, accused of breaching EU digital laws. Early this year, French President Emmanuel Macron reportedly endorsed shutting down media outlets opposing his policies. He was furious at the X post, which questioned his government's handling of domestic issues. Last year, Germany's extreme right wing leader Alice Weidel also joined the anti-media bandwagon when he stated, "Mainstream media are puppets of the elite—journalists twist truth to smear us." Surprisingly, leaders of the ruling Labour party in the UK, considered to be the mother of democracy, were also competing with their counterparts in denigrating the media. While justifying restrictions on the media, its Prime Minister Keir Starmer warned, "We must curb misinformation that fuels division," following arrests for online posts, impacting platforms like X. Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban also declared in his parliament last month: "The corruption network that rules the entire Western world of politics and media must be eliminated." In India, leaders from all political parties have been singling out journalists for harassment through administrative and other agencies.

MANDAR PARDIKAR

The relationship between the Establishment and the media has significantly altered. From issue based interactions, it has acquired the contours of a transactional companionship. During the 1970s till the beginning of the 20th century, the political class would humour and patronise the media. But it wasn't out of kindness. It was because they needed journalists to reach out to the masses and their target audience. Even the top corporate honchos would chase credible journos to not only extract information about the policy making processes but also to seek information about the leaders and civil servants.

In contrast, legacy media is now losing readers and viewers faster than the fall in temperature in the Alps during winter. Not only are the numbers dwindling, mainstream media outlets are losing their credibility, which they had built over a long time. Fewer people trust what they write in the newspapers and show during the prime time sponsored shows. Consequently, the media has paid a huge price for moving away from its avowed objective. According to published documents, both print and electronic media are facing the wrath of their patrons. The New York Times lost 54 percent of its circulation from over 6.50 lakh in 2015 to little less than three lakh. Over 40 percent of readers of The Wall Street Journal gave up their subscriptions. And the biggest loser has been The Washington Post, whose circulation plummeted from 4.30 lakh in 2015 to 1.25 in 2023--an almost 70 percent fall. Los Angeles Times, which dominated the West Coast, also suffered a decline of 67 percent in its circulation. USA Today is almost on the verge of extinction, with 81 percent of its readers dropping it. The media feels the same pressure in England, Europe and Japan. The Daily Mail, selling over 1.5 million copies a decade ago, is now down to just seven lakh copies. Even in Europe, the widely circulated and trusted newspapers like Bild, Der Spiegel (Germany) and EI Pais in Spain have lost between 30 to 60 percent of subscribers. Magazines like Time and The Economist, considered the final word on economic and political news, have seen their numbers shrinking fast. While Time has shrunk by 45 percent, The Economist dropped by 35 percent. In India, too, news publications are heading towards a deathly slide. Not only has the total circulation of all newspapers declined enormously, but even their revenue has crashed by over 50 percent because of the proliferation of politically motivated and promoted social media platforms. Most of the popular and prestigious magazines have either vanished or are facing forced closure in the near future.

Now, the ruling elite have found new avenues of amplifying their missionary messages. They don't need legacy media mavens. Instead, vainglorious political masters are now patronising a new class of social influencers whose primary mission is to make money. Heads of state are encouraging their corporate allies to take over either the existing media or float new ones, which would serve the cause of the ruling parties. Crippled by the adverse economics of the media landscape, a large number of them have started crawling. According to research by credible agencies in the United Kingdom, the revenue for traditional British journalism is today roughly only a quarter of what it was in 2007. Indian media isn't doing better, either. With advertising spend shifting to social and digital media, both traditional and print and electronic media have become totally dependent on state and central government funds. But it's only bad economics that is killing the medium. Only the media itself has chosen to strangulate itself. It should remember: "if all the headlines are identical, it's not news, it's free advertising." The media has lost both the money and the mojo.

THE CONTINUING RELEVANCE OF ESG INITIATIVES

OPINION

GEETHA RAVICHANDRAN
Former bureaucrat and author, most recently of *The Spell of the Rain Tree*

CLIMATE action and diversity policies are, of late, facing geopolitical headwinds. The US government exiting the Paris Accord and discarding diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) policies, branding legitimate concerns on environment and inclusivity as an outcome of the "woke virus", is setting the clock back. Ripples are being felt in the corporate sector across the globe. Milton Friedman's theory that the corporation exists to maximise profits for its shareholders seems to be back in vogue. The theory propounded by Edward Freeman that companies should consider the interest of all stakeholders and not merely that of their shareholders is under threat of being displaced. ESG (Environment, Social and Governance) initiatives integrated into business processes and decision-making, considering long-term sustainability and stakeholder interests, are being reconsidered.

The idea of corporate citizenship has gained currency over the past several decades. CSR (corporate social responsibility) activities sought to plough back profits for welfare schemes. The rise of the ESG movement saw an increase in sustainability-focused investments. Driven by consumer activism, companies shifted focus away from fossil fuels to renewable energy and clean energy projects. Green funds and bonds began to attract investors, and a commitment to Net Zero by 2050 was the broad consensus among corporates. Despite the enthusiasm, challenges persist in determining the impact of ESG due to a lack of uniform metrics. However, the double materiality approach that requires reporting both the risks and impact of sustainability on an enterprise and the reciprocal impact of an enterprise's activities on the environment and society has come to be adopted.

COP29 pledged to finance developing countries $300 billion annually from public and private sources. In this context, the need for corporate commitment to reduce GHG and carbon emissions while providing financial support for sustainability becomes crucial. The European Green Deal, seeks partnerships between member states, industry and investment to accelerate climate transition.The weakening of federal mandates in the US, which once took the lead in the ESG movement, has seen a rapid rollback of related protocols. Several global banks have recently exited the Net Zero Banking alliance. However, certain jurisdictions like the EU require companies to disclose ESG-related risks. Therefore, non-compliant businesses will face a competitive disadvantage when they fail to meet the requisite sustainability standards.

The alacrity with which many big tech companies dismantled their DEI policies, letting go of employees as soon as they caught a whiff of the new federal government's stance in the US, is gravely short-sighted. Such companies with global footprints are entrenching themselves in contradictions. Can a case be made that diversity is acceptable for the consumer base? Diversity is okay for harvesting data on which their AI is trained but irrelevant to their employment policies. Undeniably, diversity and inclusion in employment policies resonate with stakeholders and enable consumers to perceive businesses as trustworthy.

ESG has been the product of hard lessons learnt from profiteering corporations, especially those with a global presence prone to exploitative practices

In India, SEBI has introduced Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting, making it mandatory for the top 1,000 listed companies by market capitalisation to disclose BRSR core for the companies' value chain. ESG compliance would require systems audit and capacity-building modules to be put in place. Diversity hires by various corporates in India have created opportunities for women, differently abled and persons from disadvantaged backgrounds. ESG-informed investing helps investors evaluate the long-term risks a company faces. It leads to better decision-making, cost savings and investor confidence.

ESG has been the product of hard lessons learnt from profiteering corporations, especially those with a global presence prone to exploitative practices. The starkest example is that of the East India Company, which gouged resources and destroyed established value chains in India to extract profits. In commenting on global capitalism, ESG policies, which potentially mitigate risks, remain more relevant than ever today, especially in a country like India, where development efforts are directed towards achieving the common good of common citizens. Companies can contribute to development, create jobs and maintain economic stability. In these uncertain times, they can positively influence environmental and diversity policies.

(Views are personal)

QUOTE CORNER

What I like about ISRO is that there is no glass ceiling and offers immense opportunities for all, to address complex challenges with innovative solutions thereby making a long-lasting impact. It's totally onto us, how we convert these chances into opportunities, expand our wings.

Shilpi Soni, Space scientist

Based on the fact that Russia is absolutely "pounding" Ukraine on the battlefield right now, I am strongly considering large-scale banking sanctions, sanctions, and tariffs on Russia until a cease fire and final settlement.

Donald Trump, President, United States

He (Pranav Venkatesh) is very meticulous in his work and constantly analyses his own games, comes back with suggestions and takes feedback. You join a very prestigious line of World Junior Champions!

Vishwanathan Anand, Chess player

MAILBAG

WRITE TO letters@newindianexpress.com

Dress sense

Apropos *'Do the clothes you wear define you and must they?'* (Mar 8). How we dress for an occasion certainly matters. As is said, the sense of being well-dressed gives a feeling of inward tranquillity. It is also believed that clothes don't make the man, but they go toward making a businessman. Even if we take into account varied cultures, customs, politics, diplomacy or any other area where dress matters, what happened to Zelenskyy in America does in no way suggest etiquette or civility.

J. Bhagyalakshmi, Email

Correct clothing

The article made interesting reading. The days when a person was respected by his wearing proper dress have gone. People respect highly intelligent people dressed in a casual manner. In the article, Zelenskyy's reply, "I will wear a costume after the war finishes. May be like yours. Or better. Cheaper", was classic and showed his presence of mind.

D. Sethuraman, Chennai

Follow code

The dress speaks a lot about a person, society and the country he represents. Zelenskyy should have gone to the meeting with a better attire. He was representing his country.

Sreenivasan Raman, Bengaluru

IAF fleet

IAF chief has repeatedly said that our squadron strength of fighter jets is inadequate as presently there are only 30 operational squadrons as against the sanctioned strength of 42.
The Defence Ministry must take this national security issue seriously and induct sufficient number of fighter jets on an urgent basis.

Gopalan Nair, Koottanad

Loss-makingPSUs

Apropos *"CPM backs 'divesting' loss- making PSUs"* (Mar 8). The policy document, Novel ways to New Kerala, presented by the CM at the state CPM conference is a pointer to the radical change in party policies and a capitalist shift. The move which explicitly proposed not to protect loss-making PSUs would serve as a warning to all PSUs to perform or perish for private players to take over.

Jiji Panicker K., Chengannur

Federal spirit

True to the adage, prevention is better than cure, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin has sought a freeze on the current strength of parliament and state Assemblies for 30 years beyond 2026 to ward off the Damocles' sword of delimitation hanging over the southern states and a few northern states. Laudably, Stalin has proposed a Joint Action Committee in Chennai on March 22 to "chart out collective course forward".

Tharcius S. Fernando, Chennai

Women negotiators

Why not try handing over peace negotiations only to women to end the wars (Russia- Ukraine, etc.) and release of hostages by Palestine and Israel? The attempt, if tried for a month, may show results and permanent solutions.

PVP Madhu Nivriti, Secunderabad

Rana extradition

26/11 Mumbai terror attack accused Tahawwur Rana,who resorted to every avenue in the Rule of the Law to evade extradition to India to face trial, will finally be handed over to Indian authorities since the US Supreme Court has rejected his emergency petition seeking a stay on his deportation

S Lakshmi, Hyderabad

Farm fresh

Apropos *'Saffron sizzles, Broccoli beckons: New-age farming'* (Mar 8). It is marvellous how innovation turned barren lands into bountiful harvests. The Nagpur couple's saffron success and Tamil Nadu's watermelon-fed fish are inspiring. The average farmer still struggles, but they are sowing the seeds of tomorrow's prosperity in today's fields.

Neeraja A, Thiruvananthapuram

THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

Chairman of the Board: **Manoj Kumar Sonthalia** Editor: **Santwana Bhattacharya**

Published by **R K Jhunjhunwala** on behalf of Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited, at No. 1, Queen's Road, Bengaluru - 560 001 and printed by him at Express Press, Plot No. 2A, Bommasandra Industrial Area, 4th Phase, Survey No. 46, Part Yarandahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk. Bengaluru - 560 099.
Bengaluru. Vol. 26, No.10 RNI Reg. No. KARENG\2000\03040. Phone: 080-22866893. **Copyright:** Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any manner, electronic or otherwise, in whole or in part, without prior written permission is prohibited.

POSTS OF THE DAY

Smriti Irani @smritiirani
Every woman's success is a step towards a stronger nation. We celebrate courage, dedication & leadership of Nari Shakti... inspiring generations to come with resilience

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra @priyankagandhi
From the freedom struggle to building the nation, women have always participated in every field and have proved their powerful leadership capabilities

Mamata Banerjee @MamataOfficial
There should never be just one day dedicated to women, for every single day belongs to women. Women have the strength and power to shape her world

PM highlights the surge in women's participation and leadership in politics, governance and key industries

WOMEN'S SAFETY TOP PRIORITY: MODI

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @Ahmedabad

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Saturday said that women's safety tops his government's priority list, leading to the implementation of stricter laws and regulations to prevent crimes against them. Modi was addressing a gathering on International Women's Day in Navsari, Gujarat. Emphasising that women's empowerment is at the core of India's progress, Modi proudly declared himself the wealthiest person – not in monetary terms, but through the blessings of crores of women. "These blessings are my greatest strength, my capital, and my protective shield," he stated.

The PM underscored that true development begins with respect for women. He reaffirmed the government's commitment to ensuring dignity and convenience in their lives, highlighting key initiatives such as the construction of 'Izzat Ghars' (toilets) for crores of women, the opening of bank accounts under the Jan Dhan Yojana, and the provision of Ujjwala gas cylinders to free women from the hardship of cooking with firewood. Maternity leave for working women has also been extended from 12 weeks to 26 weeks.

He noted the government's firm stand on protecting Muslim women, citing the abolition of triple talaq, which has safeguarded lakhs of lives. He also addressed the impact of Article 370, which previously deprived Kashmiri women of property rights if they married outside the state. With its removal, these women now enjoy equal rights.

PM Modi highlighted the surge in women's participation in politics, governance, and key industries. He noted that the number of female ministers in the Centre is at an all-time high, and Parliament has seen a record number of women MPs – 78 in 2019 and 74 in the 18th Lok Sabha.

India's startup ecosystem also reflects this shift, with nearly half of all startups having women in leadership roles. Women scientists have led significant space missions, while Indian women now hold the most number of pilot positions worldwide.

Modi also commended the female police officers and security personnel who managed the event in Navsari. Calling Gujarat a prime example of women-led development, Modi pointed to the global recognition of Amul, a cooperative movement driven by lakhs of women. He also highlighted the success of Lijjat Papad, a homegrown enterprise started by Gujarati women that has become a business worth hundreds of crores.

Over the past decade, the government has prioritised stricter laws and faster justice. The newly implemented BNS strengthens protections, adding a dedicated chapter on crimes against women and children, he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the launch of development projects in Navsari, Gujarat | PTI

Women personnel take charge of security

As over 1.5 lakh women gathered in a Gujarat village for Prime Minister Modi's 'Lakhpati Didi' programme on Saturday, around 2,500 female police personnel took charge of security, ensuring the mega event proceeded smoothly. In the first such initiative in the country, the entire security cover for the event venue at Vansi Borsi village in Navsari district was provided by only women police officers and constables to mark International Women's Day. Their male peers were deployed for parking and traffic management services.

Women trailblazers take charge of PM's social media, showcase success

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @New Delhi

FOR the second time since 2020, six women from across India – who have carved a niche in their respective fields through sheer perseverance and struggle – joined forces to observe International Women's Day in a distinctive manner by taking charge of Prime Minister Modi's social media accounts on Saturday.

These women, including two scientists, rural women entrepreneurs and a woman chess player, showcased and shared their journeys and achievements, illustrating the boundless potential of women through the PM's social media.

The Prime Minister, praising their contributions on his platforms, highlighted that their determination and success serve as a reminder of the remarkable power of India's Nari-Shakti. "These women belong to different parts of India and have excelled in different areas, but there's one underlying theme – the prowess of India's Nari Shakti," PM Modi remarked, further noting that India celebrates their role in shaping Viksit-Bharat.

The women who managed the PM's social media platforms for a day shared their personal experiences and journeys, emphasising how they became "achievers and inspiring" by overcoming numerous challenges.

Dr Anjlee Agarwal, founder of Samarthyam (Centre for Universal Accessibility), CSO member of Niti Aayog, and national awardee, expressed her desire to spark transformation. "Forget labels, forget barriers...let's strengthen Sugyma Bharat and make it an important precursor to a Viksit-Bharat," she stated.

Ajaita Shah, founder of Frontiers Markets and a social entrepreneur, also took to the PM's X account, reflecting on how financially empowered women are confident decision-makers, independent thinkers, and architects of their own futures. "And, our nation is taking the lead in building financially empowered women," she remarked, highlighting the "Meri Saheli Aap" initiative's role in women's empowerment and exploring their potential.

Anita Devi, the 'Mushroom Lady of Bihar,' hailing from Ananatpur village in Nalanda, shared her mantra, which led her to self-employment while nuclear and space scientists, Elina Mishra and Shilpi Soni, highlighted the importance of women's participation in science, urging more women to pursue careers in nuclear and space technology.

I want to give a message to all the women out there, especially the young girls – follow your dreams, no matter the hurdles. Your passion will power your success

Vaishali, Leading woman chess player

The women working with me are not just earning a living but also gaining confidence and self-respect. Economic independence strengthens women's social status

Anita Devi, Farmer-turned-entrepreneur

We have to ask ourselves whether society has no responsibility towards children. We all know that the first teacher in the family is the mother. If a mother takes leave to look after children, then this endeavour of hers is also for the betterment of the society. A mother can make her child an ideal citizen through her efforts

Droupadi Murmu, President of India

'Self-reliant women will build Viksit Bharat'

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @New Delhi

A developed India can only be built on the strength of self-reliant, independent and empowered women, President Droupadi Murmu said on Saturday on the occasion of International Women's Day.

"The resolve of a developed India is the resolve of all of us, which we all must fulfill together. Therefore, men must support women at every step in becoming strong, empowered and self-reliant," the President said as she inaugurated a national conference on the theme 'Nari Shakti Se Viksit Bharat.'

"Women should move ahead in their lives with full confidence, dedication, and hard work and contribute to the development of the country and society," she said at the conference organised by the Women and Child Development Ministry to observe the International Women's Day.

The President noted that as India is moving towards becoming the third largest economy in the world, participation of women in the country's workforce should increase rapidly. She stressed that "self-reliant, independent and empowered women" are key to the realisation of 'Viksit Bharat.'

"The vision of a Viksit Bharat is our collective aspiration and we must work together to achieve it," she said, urging everyone to support women at every step towards self-reliance and success.

"They should get an environment where they can make independent decisions about their lives without pressure or fear. We have to create such an ideal society where no daughter or sister is afraid of going or staying alone," she said.

"Only the feeling of respect towards women will create a fear-free environment. The confidence that girls will get in such a society will take our country to new heights," she further said.

The President also pointed out that not only in India but also in other countries, one of the reasons for low participation of women in the workforce is the belief that women will take leave to look after their children or will not be able to pay attention to work.

"But this thinking is not correct. We have to ask ourselves whether society has no responsibility towards children. We all know that the first teacher in the family is the mother. If a mother takes leave to look after children, then this endeavour of hers is also for the betterment of the society. A mother can make her child an ideal citizen through her efforts," said the president

Citing her own example, the president said, she considers her life journey to be a part of this progress.

She said she was born in a simple family and backward area of Odisha, but her journey to the Rashtrapati Bhavan is the story of equal opportunities and social justice for women in Indian society.

Women & men equal partners in progress: President

The President commended the government's efforts toward women's empowerment, highlighting initiatives like the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam,' which provides reservation for women in Parliament and state assemblies. "This is a historic step towards women's political empowerment," she said, emphasising the need for a collective shift in mindset and percieve women and men as equal partners in progress.

SHARATH KAMAL

THE LEGEND & HIS LEGACY

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN

MANDAR PARDIKAR

IT'S difficult to quantify phrases like 'giving back to the community' from a sporting context. One athlete, though, satisfies the phrase. A Sharath Kamal, the ace Indian paddler who will step away from the table following this month's World Table Tennis Star Contender event at Chennai.

For nearly two decades, Sharath was the past, present and future of the sport in India. An ever-present like the seasons, he was – it still feels weird writing about the 42-year-old in the past tense – there, doing his thing across competitions.

A national? He would invariably occupy the top-step of the podium. A Commonwealth Games? His neck would be adorned with multiple medals once every four years. Asian Games? A history-writing double in 2018. The Olympics? From a country still struggling to produce athletes capable of qualifying for the Games on merit, the Tamil Nadu man has been to five of these... an outlier any which way you want to look.

His greatest legacy though? It's in multiple ways. When he came into the sport, forget a ceiling. Even a floor didn't exist. He literally built a house, showing Indians it was possible to make a name in the sport. In 2025, there's a floor, a ceiling and a steady stream of players who all cite 'Sharath anna' (elder brother) as the reason for them picking table tennis as their calling.

Away from the table, he also told Indians it was possible to lose with grace. In an interview he gave to this daily after coming back from the Birmingham Games in 2022, Sharath, unlike a lot of other athletes, spoke about why it was okay to be overlooked for the Khel Ratna award. "It's the Khel Ratna alone which is missing," he had said. "It's for the best sportsperson across all sport. So, when you look at a Srikant Kidambi, World No 1... I'm World No 30. Then, Neeraj Chopra. Even before his gold at the Olympics, he had won Commonwealth Games, World juniors. So, how can I compare myself with them?

"When I look at (PV) Sindhu coming and telling me 'anna, what you have done is fantastic' or a Gopichand 'man, I don't understand how you have done it'... it shows I have truly earned my spot among the best sportspersons."

True. But he also constantly kept at it as he kept reinventing himself. In the November of his life a few years ago, he also accepted the march of time. So he began eating better and started sleeping better. And spent more time in the gym than on the table, almost. The outcome? He was not only able to prolong his already decorated career but also showed younger paddlers the benefit of proper training.

But giving back, as far as Sharath is concerned, hasn't ended with inspiring youngsters. If he showed them the way during his playing days, his second innings will also deal with more of the same. For, once his playing days are over, he will make the full-time switch from athlete to administrator. He now wants to explore roles like High Performance Director. He believes he has more to give in policy-making than in coaching. He's already there in various roles (vice-chair of the Indian Olympic Association and co-chair of the Athletes Commission at the International Table Tennis Federation).

NEWSMAKER

Why does this matter? In a sport like table tennis, where the issue of funding is paramount, you need people who know what it's like to deal with officials on a daily basis, something Sharath has been doing for decades. In fact, table tennis, with proper support, could have emerged as a big winner from an Indian perspective following the Paris Games.

Because the Games saw India qualify two teams (men and women) for the first time ever. However, the expected fillip hasn't come to pass. "It's not a high priority sport," Sharath had told this daily last year. "SAI has slowly started reducing funding. There are other sports with medal prospects, they are investing more on that."

As Sharath enters the arena for one final time, it gives India one final opportunity to say kudos to a man, who above everything else, just tried. He won some battles, lost some battles but he always tried. He tried every day of the week for 20 years.

'Trump's tariff plan will ruin India', Cong hits out

PREETHA NAIR @New Delhi

A day after US President Donald Trump claimed India had agreed to cut their tariffs, Congress launched a blistering attack on the Modi government and sought to know if the Centre had surrendered the country's interests before the US.

On Friday, Trump said India has agreed to cut its tariffs "way down," as he reiterated his claim that the country charges America massive tariffs that make it difficult to sell products there.

Addressing the press, Congress leader Pawan Khera termed the Modi government's trade policy "disastrous" and asked why India could not negotiate on US reciprocal tariffs if countries like Mexico and Canada could.

"What does the fresh statement by the US President mean for India where he said "India has agreed to cut their tariffs... way down now because somebody's finally exposing them for what they have done"? Why is this 'deal', if any, shrouded in a veil of secrecy? If countries like Mexico and Canada can negotiate a month pause on US reciprocal tariffs, why couldn't India?" he said adding that India demands answers.

Khera asked if Union minister Piyush Goyal, who is in the US to negotiate a trade deal, buckled under pressure and signed a deal dictated by Trump. "Indians are learning about our government's trade policy from the US President. Has the Centre decided to cut tariffs under pressure from PM Modi's close friend Trump? Has Union minister Piyush Goyal buckled under pressure and signed on the dotted line dictated by Howdy Modi's compatriot Namaste Trump?" he jibed.

Khera claimed that the consequences of high US tariffs and reciprocal tariffs, could be disastrous for India.

How Sandalwood actor with gold walked into trap at airport

BALA CHAUHAN @Bengaluru

HARSHVARDINI RANYA alias Rao (33), a Sandalwood actor, stepdaughter of Director General of Police (Karnataka State Police Housing Corporation) Ramachandra Rao – a 1993-batch IPS officer – and a four-month-old wife of well-known Bengaluru-based architect Jaitn Hukkeri had literally everything going for her until her arrest at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) on the night of March 3 by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) under Customs Act, 1962 for smuggling 14.2 kg of gold worth ₹12.56 crore.

Her arrest at the arrival hall after landing from Dubai on an Emirates flight was nothing short of a thriller. Escorted by constable (protocol) Basavaraj, when Ranya arrived at the arrival, she was intercepted and taken aside by DRI sleuths and later arrested when they found 14 gold bars, each weighing one kg, strapped on her thighs with tape and bandages.

What foxed the DRI sleuths was the modus operandi behind the cross-continent gold smuggling. How did she get past the stringent security checks at the Dubai International? If she was handed over the gold past the security, it indicates collusion of some insiders. Who are they and how big is their spread? Who then is the beneficiary of the contraband yellow metal here in Bengaluru? Is there a back channel official collusion at work? Is she a member of an international smuggling syndicate or is being used as a mule because of her default police 'cover?'

Her frequent visits – 25 – in the last one year to Dubai and some other countries and four in the fortnight preceding her arrest – had drawn the attention of DRI and Customs authorities at KIA, who had started profiling her for her overseas visits which were of short duration; some of them not lasting beyond a couple of days.

People/agencies booking her tickets, venues, transport and the modes of payment were scrutinised and she was under the radar. Her confidence to escape intelligence scrutiny was further pepped up because of the illegit use of VIP channels to exit and enter the airport on her arrival on international flights with a protocol official there to receive her and ensure smooth passage without mandatory frisking and checks carried on regular passengers. She misused her stepfather's position even though he distanced himself from his step daughter, pleaded ignorance about her activities and requested to be spared of a mudslinging.

On March 4, the day after her arrest, the DRI recovered gold jewellery worth ₹2.06 crore and ₹2.67 crore in cash from her house – No 62, Nandwani Mansion in upscale Lavelle Road - during raids. The total seizure in the case amounted to ₹17.29 crore, including assets worth ₹4.73 crore.

She was produced before the Economic Offences Court in Bengaluru on March 4 and has been remanded in judicial custody till March 18.

In her voluntary statement before the court, she confessed that 17 pieces of gold bars were recovered (by the DRI) from her possession between March 3 and 4. She said she visited Europe, America, Middle East, Dubai and Saudi Arabia in the recent past but refused to mention the actual number of overseas visits.

Born on September 14, 1991, in Chikkamagaluru, Ranya is the daughter of realtor KS Hegdesh. Her mother is the second wife of DGP Rao. Ranya has studied up to Class 12 and describes herself as an artist in the film industry/theatre, wild life photographer and "freelancer in real estate in Dubai."

Her debut in Sandalwood was in 2014 with 'Maanikya,' in which she played the role of Manasa starring alongside Kiccha Sudeep and V Ravichandran. In 2016, she ventured into Tamil cinema with 'Wagah,' in which she starred opposite Vikram Prabhu as Khaanum/Kajal. Ranya returned to Kannada cinema in 2017 with 'Pataki,' as Sangeetha and shared the screen with Ganesh. Before her film debut, Ranya trained at the Kishore Namit Kapoor Acting Institute in Mumbai and explored theatre.

In November 2024, Ranya tied the knot with Jatin Hukkeri, who she had met in August the same year. The two decided to marry on their first date, said people known to the couple.

CBI joins probe into cross-border smuggling

The Central Bureau of Investigation on Saturday joined the probe in cases of gold smuggling following Ranya's arrest as it is becomes increasingly apparent that a cross-continent smugglers cartel is at work, at a time of unsteady stock market and global trade war. There has been a substantial spike in gold prices in the last one year in India.

WOMEN RESERVATION

CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Saturday said that the state government is in favour of providing reservations for women as he addressed a public gathering organised on the occasion of International Women's Day in Himachal's Kangra District.

3 POLICEMEN INJURED IN ATTACK BY LIQUOR MAFIA IN PATNA

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	32	21	Mumbai	35	25
Bhopal	30	17	Panaji	36	26
Jaipur	27	17	Patna	31	19
Amritsar	22	10	Lucknow	29	14
Chennai	31	26	Port Blair	32	26
Kolkata	34	24	Imphal	24	14
Srinagar	10	02	Chandigarh	24	11

MP plans death penalty for conversion of girls

CM Yadav says Freedom of Religion Act to be amended for provision

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

THE BJP regime in Madhya Pradesh is working on suitable amendments in the state's anti-religious conversion law to include death penalty for those indulging in religious conversion of girls, CM Mohan Yadav said on Saturday.

"Our government is dedicated to the protection and self-respect of daughters. After the provision of the death penalty for those who commit atrocities (rape) against daughters, now provision of the death penalty will also be made for those found guilty of religious conversion of women. Suitable provisions will be made in the MP Freedom of Religion Act 2021 for instituting the provision of the death penalty for those found guilty of religious conversion of girls," Yadav said while addressing the state-level International Women's Day event in Bhopal.

Reacting to the development, Supreme Court senior advocate and Congress Rajya Sabha member Vivek Tankha said, "Religious conversion through wrong means is already punishable under the existing law.

1.27 cr women benefited from Ladli Behna scheme

CM Yadav also digitally transferred ₹1.552.73 crore into the bank accounts of 1.27 crore beneficiaries under the ₹ 1,250 monthly CM Ladli Behna financial assistance scheme'.

From the Supreme Court's decisions and constitutional point of view, hanging isn't possible. The CM is just trying to please his hardline constituents."

Notably, the MP Freedom of Religion Act, known as "anti-Love Jihad" in political circles, which came into force in 2021, targets forced religious conversions. It has made religious conversion (including attempt and conspiracy) of any person through enticement, threats, force, undue influence, coercion, marriage or any fraudulent means – a cognizable and non-bailable offence and carries a prison term ranging between one and ten years and fine spanning between ₹ 25,000 and ₹ one lakh to those convicted for religious conversion.

Meanwhile, the CM also digitally transferred ₹1.552.73 crore into the bank accounts of ₹1.27 crore beneficiaries under the ₹1,250 monthly CM Ladli Behna financial assistance scheme' and ₹55.95 crore under the ₹ "450 per gas cylinder refilling scheme₹ into the accounts of 26 lakh women.

On International Women's Day, women handled the entire command of CM's security and arrangements, including the carcade. Security was tasked with Deputy Superintendent of Police Bittu Sharma, while Inspector Irshad Ali drove the CM's vehicle. The responsibility of the carcade vehicles was assigned to Sapna and other women drivers.

NTPC official on way to work shot dead in J'khand

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

NATIONAL Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Deputy General Manager (DGM), Kumar Gaurav, was shot dead by unidentified criminals in Hazaribagh on Saturday.

He suffered a fatal gunshot wound to the back and was rushed to the hospital, where

he was declared dead. The incident occurred around 9:30 am near Fataha under Katkamdag police station in Hazaribagh.

According to reports, Gaurav was working at NTPC's Keredari office as DGM – Dispatch and was on his way to work on Saturday morning when two unknown motorcycle-borne criminals opened fire on him. A driver and another employee were also accompanying him at the time of the incident.

Gaurav was seated in the back seat of the SUV. The bullet hit him directly killing him on the spot, an eye witness said.

Faiz Tayyab, the Project Head of NTPC Pakri Barwadih, stated that the incident has raised concerns about the safety of officials. "This is nothing but an attempt to instill fear among NTPC employees," he explained, adding that the company has lost a promising officer.

Maha Cong kicks off Sadbhavana Yatra from slain sarpanch's place

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

HARSHVARDHAN Sapkal, the newly appointed president of the Maharashtra Congress, launched the 'Sadbhavana Yatra' on Saturday. The yatra began at Massajog, the residence of slain Sarpanch Santosh Deshmukh, and will continue to Beed. This initiative aims to put an end to the growing hatred among communities.

Currently, the state is experiencing intense political strife, with divisions forming between different castes and religions. "This animosity and hatred must be addressed. This yatra is an effort in that direction," Sapkal stated during his address to the public.

He emphasized the need to reestablish brotherhood and social harmony among all castes and communities. "The late Sarpanch Santosh Deshmukh fell victim to a particular mentality. We stand firmly with the Deshmukh family during this difficult time. The culprits must face the harshest punishment," he asserted.

Former Justice B.G. Kolse Patil, economist Prof. M.S. Desarda, and several other eminent personalities participated in the event. People could be heard raising slogans like "Erase caste divisions, uphold humanity." The Congress state president visited the Deshmukh family in the morning before formally launching the 50 km yatra from Massajog.

"The barbaric crime demands introspection from society. Maharashtra has inherited the legacy of great saints like Shivaji Maharaj, Shahu Maharaj, Phule, Ambedkar, Gadge Baba, and Tukdoji Maharaj. Deshmukh was a victim of a certain mentality. This is not just the Deshmukh family's fight—it is a battle for everyone," he added.

"He gave his life fighting against a certain ideology, and we must all take a stand to eradicate the evil. Harmony is enshrined in our Constitution. Since the incident, the Deshmukh family has maintained remarkable composure and wisdom. The criminals have no caste or religion—they are simply criminals. We are against forces that incite hatred and division based on caste and religion," Congress leader said.

LUCKNOW DIARY

NAMITA BAJPAI

Our correspondent in Uttar Pradesh

namita.bajpai@newindianexpress.com

Akash Anand most sought-after

Akash Anand, the nephew of BSP chief Mayawati, who was expelled from the party last week, has suddenly become the most sought-after political entity being lured by all the parties. Ramdas Athawale of the Republican Party of India (RPI-Athawale) was the first one to invite Akash and his father-in-law, Ashok Siddharth, to join his party. Even some sections of the SP also sounded in favour of Akash. While Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhar Azad 'Ravan' is also getting an opportunity to push bete noire Mayawati back by striking proximity with Akash Anand, Congress's Udit Raj did not let go of the chance to show sympathy with him.

Vrindavan set for a Guinness record this Holi

Colours of inspiration and an aura of positivity are set to break the stereotypes in Vrindavan, where over 2,000 widows will create a historic record by playing Holi together this year. Vrindavan's social organisations and UP tourism department have come together to host the remarkable 'Widows' Holi-2025', aiming at a Guinness World Record. It is an endeavour to break the stereotype which prevents widows from participating in festivities like Holi and forcing them to lead a renounced life. However, in Vrindavan — a city deeply connected to the divine love of Lord Krishna —this celebration has emerged as a symbol of revolutionary change doing away with age-old taboos.

Tiger on the prowl captured, relocated

The tiger, which reigned terror in Rehmankhera on the outskirts of the state capital Lucknow for 91 days and was finally captured recently, was released in the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve in Lakhimpur Kheri district. The 200-kg male canine, who is four years old, was released in the pocket where male tigers are few. Before it, the tiger forced the closure of schools and created an almost curfew-like situation after dusk in Rehmankhera, where it had been on the prowl since early November 2024. The forest department spent ₹ 90 lakh on the capture which didn't attack humans but preyed on on 25 cattle.

Rahul warns of weeding out black sheep

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @ Ahmedabad

TAKING Congress cadre to task in a state where the party has been out of power for decades, party leader Rahul Gandhi cautioned a gathering of 2,000 workers here on Saturday that up to 40 leaders could be weeded out, if needed, to rebuild credibility in the state.

Accusing some members of aiding the BJP in the state, he said, "For nearly 30 years, we have been out of power here. But the issue isn't just elections — it's trust. Until we fulfill our responsibility, the people of Gujarat won't back us, and we shouldn't ask for their vote until we fulfill our duty...," he said in his 25-minute speech at Jade Hall.

Pointing at internal challenges faced by the party, he said, "People of Gujarat want an opposition, not BJP's B-team ...If 10, 20, or even 40 people need to go, so be it. Those who don't carry Congress in their hearts have no place in our organisation." On Gujarat's economic issues, he urged the leaders to move beyond speeches and slogans.

One-plus-one: Now, free drug samples smuggled into Punjab from Pak

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

IN a new 'one-plus-one' scheme, free samples of methamphetamine, also known as 'ICE' or 'Crystal meth', is being packaged with heroin by smugglers crossing into Punjab from Pakistan. Sources said police last year alone seized 22 kg of ICE compared to 2 kg in 2023.

Last week another 2 kg of ICE has been seized. In May last year, Amritsar Rural police arrested two drug smugglers and seized 3 kg heroin and 1 kg ICE. Preliminary investigations reveal that the arrested were in touch with Pakistani smuggler Dogar Rajput.

An police official said smugglers from across the border are sending ICE free of cost to enable their local counterparts to make money and create a market of this form of drug. "ICE costs about one-tenth of the heroin and its dosage is small. In many cases, ICE was sent via drones alongside heroin shipments to Punjab," the official said.

The arrested smugglers reportedly told officials that ICE was being distributed free of cost. "Pakistan-based drug lord Haji Salim, also known as Haji Baloch, is suspected to be behind large-scale supply of ICE. He operates a global network and is now shifting focus to ICE produced in Afghanistan," a police official claimed.

Police sources said that one reason behind the rise in smuggling of ICE is the decrease in supply of heroin to Pakistan smugglers from Afghanistan because of the Taliban-led government's control over opium cultivation. "But the growth of ephedra lant remains unchecked despite the ban by Taliban on opium cultivation since 2021. Thus the supply of heroin, which is chemically derived from opium, has been significantly impacted by the opium ban. Smugglers have been relying on existing stock," a police official said.

Science, Lord Ram lessons to be taught in U'khand madrasas

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

THE Uttarakhand Waqf Board has imposed a complete ban on the admission of children from other states into the madrasas in the hill state. Classes in the modern madrasas will commence with the national anthem, and students will not only study science but also learn about the ideals of Lord Ram and Lord Krishna, Waqf Board officials said.

In a notable initiative, the first Dr A P J Abdul Kalam Modern Madrasa will be established in the Muslim locality adjacent to Dehradun railway station. The government has officially approved the operation of this modern madrasa. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami emphasised the importance of this project, saying, "The establishment of the modern madrasa is part of my dream project to ensure that Muslim students receive better education."

Speaking to this newspaper, Shadab Shams, the chairman of the Uttrakhand Waqf Board, said, "In April, the first madrasa named after former President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam will be inaugurated in Dehradun, followed by the elevation of 117 madrasas by the Waqf Board."

Shams emphasised the organisation's commitment to integrating Muslim students into the mainstream and fostering a sense of patriotism. "We have resolved to move away from extremism and connect our students with the core values of our nation," he said.

'Fostering a sense of patriotism'

Speaking to this newspaper, Shadab Shams, the chairman of the Uttrakhand Waqf Board emphasised the organisation's commitment to integrating Muslim students into the mainstream and fostering a sense of patriotism. "We have resolved to move away from extremism and connect our students with the core values of our nation," he said.

"The aim is to introduce students at modern madrasas to the ideals of Shri Guru Nanak Dev, Jesus Christ, and Prophet Muhammad through a curriculum aligned with the NCERT syllabus," said Shams. "Our goal is to ensure that the children studying in our madrasas open their eyes to these teachings and become good Indian citizens," he added.

The Waqf Board chairman further said, "Madrasas in PoK are known as hubs of terrorism; our madrasas will be based on the principles of nationalism, which we are developing as part of the Dhami model."

According to sources, the modern madrasa will offer science curriculum from 8 am to 12 noon. Quranic education will be provided after 2 pm. Former soldiers assigned to the madrasa will conduct training for the national anthem to promote physical fitness. Additionally, efforts will be made to instill a sense of patriotism among the students. "Uttarakhand, popularly known as the 'land of the Gods', is witnessing a tightening of the Hindutva agenda, and this new regulation signifies a shift in the educational framework within the state," an analyst said.

C'garh women: Empowered a bit politically but not seen in top posts

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

CHHATTISGARH has a favourable sex ratio of 991 females for every 1,000 males, compared to the national average of 943, according to the 2011 census. The state shows better political participation but has never seen women assume top administrative or judiciary positions.

During the past 25 years, after Chhattisgarh was carved out as a separate state from undivided Madhya Pradesh, there has been a long list of top bureaucrats and chief justices, but no woman has ever been seen assuming the seniormost position. For instance, of the 15 chief justices the high court has had, no women have held that position. Currently, the court has 16 judges, with Justice Rajni Dubey being the only woman judge.

Similarly, the state has yet to see a woman chief secretary or director general of police (DGP). In the last 25 years, there have been 12 chief secretaries and 12 DGPs in the state.

Women's political participation is often a fundamental prerequisite for gender equality and genuine democracy. Chhattisgarh sustained an increase in women's political engagement.

In the country, the state Assembly currently has the highest percentage of women MLAs, 21.11% among the total lawmakers, with 19 legislators in the 90-member House. Three out of the 11 Lok Sabha members are women from the state.

Though political parties often talk about greater representation of women, no woman has ever had a chance to become Speaker or LoP in the State Assembly.

Interestingly, with women playing a significant role in their choice as voters in elections, the political parties believed they had a strong impact on the overall poll results.

The state witnessed the conspicuous active participation of women, who outnumbered men as voters, in the electoral processes during the 2023 Assembly polls.

The women voters are 1.03 crore, while men are 1.01 crore out of the 2.05 crore electorates in the tenth largest state of the country. Kiran Kaushal was the first woman from Chhattisgarh to qualify UPSC exams and become IAS in 2009, and later, Ankita Sharma was the first woman to become IPS in the year 2018. Both are from Durg district.

Long way to go

Though political parties often talk about greater representation of women, no woman has ever had a chance to become Speaker or Leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly.

IIFA celebrates 25 yrs of cinematic excellence

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

THE International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards 2025 got off to a glamorous start in Jaipur on Saturday, marking the silver jubilee of the event. The two-day celebration happening on March 8 and 9 brought Bollywood's stars to the Pink City. Jaipur is the second city after Mumbai to host this mega-event in 25 years.

Many Bollywood stars and renowned film personalities will take part in the grand celebration. The guest list includes Shah Rukh Khan, Madhuri Dixit, Kareena Kapoor, Shahid Kapoor, Jaideep Ahlawat, Kartik Aaryan, Abhishek Banerjee, Nora Fatehi, and singer Shreya Ghoshal. Actors Bobby Deol, Ali Fazal, Boman Irani, Karishma Tanna, and producer Ekta Kapoor have also reached Jaipur for the event. Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma and Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari attended the inauguration ceremony on Saturday.

Bhajanlal spoke about Rajasthan's strong connection with Bollywood and said the industry cannot be imagined without Rajasthan and the artists serve as the state's brand ambassadors. He mentioned that the event would open new avenues for tourism in the state. He also highlighted that in the past year, 61 movies, web series, and TV shows have been shot in Rajasthan, emphasizing how the state's landscape, mountains and sanctuaries provide a terrific backdrop for filmmakers.

Diya Kumari, who is also the Tourism Minister, said "The event will provide an opportunity to promote Rajasthan's tourism, art and culture globally. This event will also strengthen the economic system, as if tourism increases, then many types of businesses will also grow here."

Bollywood actors attend the first day of IIFA Awards in Jaipur on Saturday | EXPRESS

Special discussion on journey of women in cinema

With the IIFA event starting on International Women's Day, a special discussion was organized on the journey of women in cinema. The session featured Bollywood veteran Madhuri Dixit and Oscar-winning producer Guneet Monga, who shared their experiences and insights about the evolving role of women in the industry.

With the IIFA event starting on International Women's Day, a special discussion was organized on the journey of women in cinema. The session featured Bollywood veteran Madhuri Dixit and Oscar-winning producer Guneet Monga, who shared their experiences and insights about the evolving role of women in the industry. Hosted by IIFA Vice President Noreen Khan, the conversation explored the challenges faced by women in cinema, their increasing influence, and the changing landscape of the industry.

Among the highlights of the event are the dance performances by Madhuri Dixit and show's co anchors, Bollywood Director Karan Johar and star Kartik Aaryan. Other keenly awaited highlights are the dance performances by Nora Fatehi and Shahid Kapoor and singer Shreya Ghoshal providing her musical vocals. Punjabi singer Mika Singh also adds to the anticipation. A major highlight will be the much-awaited on-stage reunion of Kareena Kapoor and Shahid Kapoor, who will be seen together after a long time.

1 dead
several injured as tropical low tracks west across Australian east coast

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	18	6	SNY	Los Angeles	18	9	SNY
Colombo	32	25	SNY	Melbourne	26	18	SNY
Dhaka	31	22	SNY	Moscow	9	0	LC
Dubai	30	24	SNY	New York	11	4	LC
Houston	15	18	SNY	Singapore	31	26	SNY
Istanbul	7	4	LR	Toronto	3	1	LS
London	17	6	LR	Washington	16	4	LS

Overnight Russian strikes kill at least 14 in Ukraine

Russia says it captured three more villages in fresh setback for Kyiv

DOBROPILLIA

RUSSIA on Saturday said its troops had retaken three villages seized by Ukraine in its Kursk border region in a fresh setback for Kyiv as the prospect of peace negotiations appeared to be increasing.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Saturday called for more sanctions against Russia as overnight strikes killed at least 14 people and wounded dozens more.

The war has reached a critical juncture, days ahead of talks between US and Ukrainian negotiators aimed at securing a truce in the three-year-long conflict.

Washington has suspended crucial American military assistance and access to satellite imagery and intelligence sharing after President Donald Trump and Zelenskyy had a public falling-out in the Oval Office last week.

Ukraine still controls some 400 square kilometres in the Kursk region after launching a cross-border offensive last August and Zelenskyy sees this as a possible bargaining chip in peace talks.

But Ukraine's troops in Kursk have seen their position worsen in recent weeks with Russia's army encroaching.

Russia's defence ministry on Saturday announced the recapture of three more villages: Viktorovka, Nikolayevka and Staraya Sorochina.

According to DeepState, an online military tracker linked to the Ukrainian army, the Russian move followed a "breach" in Ukrainian defence lines near the town of Sudzha, which is under Kyiv's control.

Russia appears to have cut off the logistics route needed by Ukraine to supply its troops in the town.

The Ukrainian army has not commented on the latest claim, but Russia has already taken back more than two-thirds of its territory initially seized by Kyiv. Peace negotiations remain a distant prospect with Kyiv and Moscow making starkly opposed demands. But Trump's return to the White House has brought this prospect nearer.

The American president has radically shifted the US position, reaching out to Russian President Vladimir Putin while criticising Zelenskyy. Trump has said it may be "easier" to work with Moscow than Kyiv on efforts to end the war.

Senior US and Ukrainian officials are set to meet for talks on the war in Jeddah on Tuesday. Zelenskyy will also visit on Monday for talks with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. *AFP*

Firefighters put out the blaze following a Russian rocket attack in Dobropillya, Donetsk region, Ukraine on Friday night | AP

UKRAINE BARRED FROM ACCESSING SAT IMAGERY

Washington has "temporarily suspended" Ukraine's access to US government-purchased commercial satellite imagery, a National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency spokesperson said on Friday. Maxar, one of the companies contracted by the US program that provided the imagery to Kyiv, confirmed the suspension, while saying there is "no change to the way we support our other customers nor their programs or contracts." The suspension of Ukraine's access to the satellite imagery — which its forces have used for tracking the movement of Russian troops and assessing damage after strikes — comes after Washington halted other key assistance for Kyiv

More than 600 dead in 2 days of clashes and revenge killings in Syria: War monitor

BEIRUT

THE death toll from two days of clashes between security forces and loyalists of ousted Syrian President Bashar Assad and revenge killings that followed has risen to more than 600, a war monitoring group said on Saturday, making it one of the deadliest acts of violence since Syria's conflict began 14 years ago.

The clashes, which erupted on Thursday, marked a major escalation in the challenge to the new government in Damascus, three months after insurgents took authority after removing Assad from power.

The government has said that they were responding to attacks from remnants of Assad's forces and blamed "individual actions" for the rampant violence.

The revenge killings that started Friday by Sunni Muslim gunmen loyal to the government against members of Assad's minority Alawite sect are a major blow to Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, the faction that led the overthrow of the former government. Alawites made up a large part of Assad's support base for decades.

Residents of Alawite villages and towns spoke to The Associated Press about killings during which gunmen shot Alawites, the majority of them men, in the streets or at the gates of their homes. Many homes of Alawites were looted and then set on fire in different areas, two residents of Syria's coastal region told the AP from their hideouts. They asked that their names not be made public out of fear of being killed by gunmen, adding that thousands of people have fled to nearby mountains for safety.

Residents of Baniyas, one of the towns worst hit by the violence, said bodies were strewn on the streets or left unburied in homes and on the roofs of buildings, and nobody was able to collect them.

One resident said that the gunmen prevented residents for hours from removing the bodies of five of their neighbours killed Friday at close range.

Ali Sheha, a 57-year-old resident of Baniyas who fled with his family and neighbours hours after the violence broke out Friday, said that at least 20 of his neighbours and colleagues in one neighbourhood of Baniyas where Alawites lived, were killed, some of them in their shops, or in their homes. *AP*

The body of a Syrian security force member killed in clashes with loyalists of ousted President Bashar Assad in coastal Syria, is carried for burial near Idlib | AFP

ASIA MATTERS

THAILAND

EX-COP GUILTY OF MURDER DIES IN PRISON

A former Thai police officer serving life in prison for murder was found dead in his cell and an investigation into his death has been launched, prison officials said on Saturday. Thitisan Utthanaphon, nicknamed "Joe Ferrari" for his vast collection of luxury sportscars and flashy lifestyle, was found guilty of murder in 2022 for torturing a suspect to death during a brutal interrogation. The high-profile case caused public outrage and shone a rare light on police brutality in the kingdom. Thitisan was discovered unresponsive in his cell in a Bangkok prison on Friday night.

SINGAPORE

INDIAN JAILED FOR DRUG POSSESSION

An Indian national was sentenced to one year and 10 weeks in jail on Friday for a range of offences, including possessing drugs. Sajan Oberoi pleaded guilty to five charges, two of which were related to drugs, reported *Channel News Asia*. Another 15 charges, including criminal intimidation were taken into consideration.

INDONESIA

BAN ON IPHONE SALES LIKELY TO BE LIFTED

Indonesia approved local certificates for more than a dozen Apple products this week, the industry ministry said, moving the tech giant a step closer to having a ban lifted on iPhone sales in Southeast Asia's biggest economy. Apple struck a deal with Indonesia last month to invest in the country of 280 million after months of deadlock over the tech titan's failure to meet regulations requiring phones to be built with at least 40% of components made locally. "We have issued local content requirement certificates for 20 Apple products," a govt spokesperson said.

Hackman, wife died of natural causes, a week apart, says doc

SANTA FE

ACTOR Gene Hackman died of heart disease a full week after his wife died from hantavirus in their New Mexico hillside home, likely unaware that she was dead because he was in the advanced stages of Alzheimer's disease, authorities said.

Both deaths were ruled to be from natural causes, chief medical examiner Dr Heather Jarrell said alongside state fire and health officials at a news conference. "Mr Hackman showed evidence of advanced Alzheimer's disease," Jarrell said. "He was in a very poor state of health. He had significant heart disease, and I think ultimately that's what resulted in his death."

Authorities didn't suspect foul play after the bodies of Hackman, 95, and Betsy Arakawa, 65, were discovered February 26. Immediate tests for carbon monoxide poisoning were negative. Investigators found that the last known communication and activity from Arakawa was February 11 when she visited a pharmacy, pet store and grocery before returning to their gated neighbourhood that afternoon.

Hackman's pacemaker last showed signs of activity a week later and that he had an abnormal heart rhythm February 18, the day he likely died, Jarrell said. Although there was no reliable way to determine the date and time when both died, all signs point to their deaths coming a week apart. *AP*

Toronto Police at the site of the shooting | AP

12 wounded as three gunmen open fire at Canadian pub

TORONTO

A dozen people were injured in a shooting at an eastern Toronto pub in what police called a reckless act of violence by three men who entered the bar and fired randomly without warning.

Superintendent Paul MacIntyre of the Toronto Police Service said police received numerous emergency calls reporting a shooting at the Piper Arms around 10.40 pm on Friday.

A preliminary investigation determined three males entered the pub and began shooting at customers, MacIntyre said during a news conference at the scene. There were no immediate arrests.

"One male was armed with what appears to be an assault rifle, the other two males were armed with handguns, and they walked into the bar, they produced their guns and they opened fire indiscriminately on the people sitting inside," MacIntyre said, adding there were no fatalities.

Police arrived at the scene and found 12 people suffering from various injuries. The victims were transported to local hospitals and six were confirmed to have gunshot wounds that were not life-threatening, MacIntyre said, calling the victims 'extremely lucky'. The remaining six victims were hurt by flying and broken glass.

The motive was not immediately clear, MacIntyre said, calling the shooting "a brazen and reckless act of violence" that's really shaken the city. *AP*

TRUMP'S COST-CUTTING CAMPAIGN GAINS PACE

The overhaul of the federal government is happening at lightning speed, reflecting years of preparation by Donald Trump's allies and the president's decision to grant Musk sweeping influence over his administration

CONTROL OVER EPA

Environmental Protection Agency must seek approval from the Department of Government Efficiency for any contracts exceeding **$50,000**

PENTAGON WORKERS TARGETED

Some directives have increased burdens on federal workers. For example, govt credit cards issued to Pentagon workers were altered to have a $1 limit, choking off their ability to travel for work

DEAL WITH AIRPORT WORKERS CANCELLED

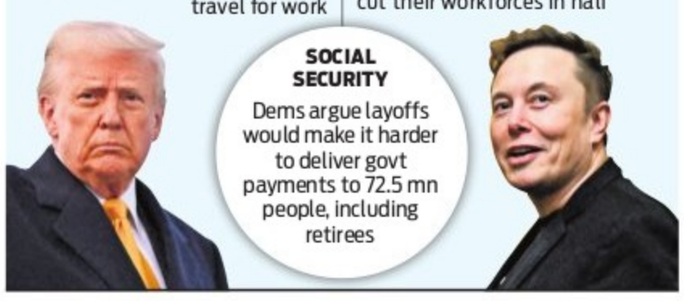
A collective bargaining agreement with 47,000 workers who screen travellers and luggage at airports around the country has been cancelled, eliminating union protections

IN THE PIPELINE

The Department of Veterans Affairs could shed 80,000 employees, while the Internal Revenue Service and the Social Security Administration are considering plans that would cut their workforces in half

SOCIAL SECURITY

Dems argue layoffs would make it harder to deliver govt payments to 72.5 mn people, including retirees



Muslim nations reject Trump's call to empty Gaza, back alternative plan

DEIR AL-BALAH

FOREIGN ministers from Muslim nations on Saturday rejected calls by US President Donald Trump to empty the Gaza Strip of its Palestinian population and backed a plan for an administrative committee of Palestinians to govern the territory to allow reconstruction to go ahead.

The foreign ministers gathered in the Saudi city of Jeddah for a special session of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation to address the situation in Gaza, at a time when the 7-week-old ceasefire between Israel and Hamas has been thrown into doubt.

In a statement put out Saturday, the gathering threw its support behind a plan to rebuild Gaza put forward by Egypt and backed by Arab states, including Saudi Arabia and Jordan, aimed at countering Trump's call. The OIC groups 57 nations with largely Muslim populations.

Without specifically mentioning Trump, the ministers said they rejected plans aimed at displacing the Palestinian people individually or collectively as ethnic cleansing, a grave violation of international law and a crime against humanity. They also condemned 'policies of starvation' that they said aim to push Palestinians to leave.

The OIC also reinstated Syria as a member of the grouping. Syria was removed from the OIC in 2012 over then-President Bashar Assad's brutal crackdown on opposition protests. After some 14 years of civil war, Assad was ousted in December by Islamist-led insurgents. *AP*

North Korea unveils nuclear-powered submarine

SEOUL

NORTH Korea unveiled for the first time a nuclear-powered submarine under construction, a weapons system that can pose a major security threat to South Korea and the US.

State media on Saturday released photos showing what it called 'a nuclear-powered strategic guided missile submarine', as it reported leader Kim Jong Un's visits to shipyards where warships are built.

The Korean Central News Agency, or KCNA, didn't provide details on the submarine, but said Kim was briefed on its construction.

The naval vessel appears to be a 6,000-ton-class or 7,000-ton-class one which can carry about 10 missiles, said Moon Keun-sik, a South Korean submarine expert who teaches at Seoul's Hanyang University.

He said the use of the term "the strategic guided missiles" meant it would carry nuclear-capable weapons. "It would be absolutely threatening to us and the US," Moon said.

A nuclear-powered submarine was among a long wishlist of sophisticated weaponry that Kim vowed to introduce during a major political conference in 2021 to cope with what he called escalating US-led military threats. Other weapons were solid-fuelled intercontinental ballistic missiles, hypersonic weapons, spy satellites and multi-warhead missiles.

North Korea has since performed a run of testing activities to acquire them.

North Korea obtaining a greater ability to fire missiles from underwater is a worrying development because it's difficult for its rivals to detect such launches in advance.

Questions about how North Korea, a heavily sanctioned and impoverished country, could get resources and technology to build nuclear-powered submarines have surfaced. *AP*

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un inspecting a shipbuilding project at a major shipyard at an undisclosed location in North Korea | AFP

KING'S COLLEGE LONDON

Indian students invited to apply for special scholarship

LONDON

KING'S College London has issued a callout to Indian students to apply in time to be eligible for the Vice-Chancellor's Awards, which comes with a 10,000-pound (about ₹11,26,000) fee waiver to pursue a post-graduate degree geared towards making a wider societal impact.

The leading London-based university's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Shitij Kapur, told PTI this week that he is particularly proud of these awards for Indian students, having himself left Delhi to pursue post-graduate studies abroad.

Kapur also highlighted the university's historic Indian connection, going back to when freedom fighter Sarojini Naidu was among its first female alumni in the nineteenth century.

"We were one of the earliest universities in the UK to teach Sanskrit and Bengali and Sarojini Naidu was one of our remarkable students in the very early days when King's started admitting female students," said Kapur. "In more recent times, we have seen a surge of applicants from India and one of the things we realised is that for many of them, the fees of a UK university is a barrier. So, to encourage more students, we came up with the Vice-Chancellor's Awards," he said. *PTI*

35% women representation in India's semiconductor industry expected by 2030, up from 25% in 2025, as per human resource consulting firm NLB Services

Nadar 'gifts' daughter control of HCL

Founder of the IT company transfers 47% stake in promoter entities Vama, HCL Corp to Roshni Nadar

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

AS part of the family succession plan, founder of information technology company HCL Technologies Shiv Nadar has executed gift deeds to transfer his 47% shareholding in Vama Sundari Investments (Delhi) Private Limited and HCL Corporation Private Limited to his daughter Roshni Nadar Malhotra.

Both Vama Sundari and HCL Corporation are promoter group of HCL Technologies with the former holding 44.17% and the latter holding 0.17% stake in the company.

"Gift Deeds have been executed pursuant to a private family arrangement intended to streamline succession, which would ensure continuity of ownership and control by Shiv Nadar Family (promoter family) and would provide desired stability to the company," HCL Technologies said in a regulatory filing.

Following this transfer, Roshni Nadar Malhotra, who is already a key figure in HCL's leadership, will gain majority control over Vama Delhi and HCL Corp, which together hold a 44.34% stake in HCL Technologies. Roshni Nadar Malhotra is the chairperson of HCLTech, and the chairperson of its CSR Board Committee. She is also a Trustee of the Shiv Nadar Foundation.

THE FAMILY SUCCESSION PLAN

Billionaire Shiv Nadar, HCL founder, has gifted **47%** of his stake in HCL Corp and Vama Delhi to daughter Roshni Nadar Malhotra as part of a strategic succession plan

After the transfer, Malhotra will acquire control and become a majority shareholder of Vama Delhi and HCL Corp, HCLTech said in a stock exchange filing

She will acquire control over voting rights in relation to **12.94%** stake held by Vama Delhi and **49.94%** held by HCL Corp in HCL Infosystems

Immediately prior to the execution of gift deeds, the father and daughter held **51% and 10.33%** shareholding, respectively, in Vama Delhi and HCL Corp.

Sebi has granted Malhotra an exemption from making an open offer, facilitating the smooth transfer of shares.

In HCL Tech, she will acquire control over voting rights in relation to **44.17%** stake held by Vama Delhi & 0.17% stake held by HCL Corp

HCL Tech is the third largest IT company both in terms of turnover and m-cap

IN HCL TECH, SHE WILL ACQUIRE CONTROL OVER VOTING RIGHTS IN RELATION TO 44.17% STAKE HELD BY VAMA DELHI AND 0.17% STAKE HELD BY HCL CORP

Roshni Nadar, who is the only child of Shiv Nadar, took the reins of the company from her father and became the chairman in 2020 at the age of 38. Prior to the execution of the gift deeds, Shiv Nadar and Roshni Nadar Malhotra held 51% and 10.33% shareholding respectively, in both Vama and HCL Corp. The father, daughter duo directly holds 736 and 696 shares respectively, in HCL Technology.

Shiv Nadar, the founder of HCL Group and the Shiv Nadar Foundation, is currently the chairman emeritus & strategic advisor to the Board of HCLTech. Nadar, credited with being one of the pioneers of the computing and IT industry in India, started HCL Tech 1976. While HCL started off as a hardware organization, manufacturing the country's first indigenous computers and introducing them to the Indian consumer, it eventually evolved into a more comprehensive software services organisation.

HCL Technologies is the third largest IT company both in terms of turnover and market capitalisation. The company posted revenue of ₹1.09 lakh crore and a profit of ₹15,710 crore in FY24. In the first nine months of the current financial year, the company has posted ₹86,809 crore in revenue and ₹13,000 crore in profits.

Both Vama Sundari Investments and HCL Corp were incorporated in 2008 as a Private Limited Company. Both the entities have received Reserve Bank of India nod to carry on the business of non-banking financial institutions as Core Investment Company without accepting public deposits.

NEWSCOPE

UKRAINE SPAT TRIGGERS SUPER POWER EUROPE

GURBIR SINGH

IN a little over 40 days since his inauguration, President Donald Trump has unleashed cataclysmic changes at home and around the globe. He has signed hundreds of edicts ranging from imposing heavy tariffs on friends and foes, to sending back illegal immigrants shackled in military planes.

On the global stage, while Trump seems amenable to revisiting his onerous tariff imposts, he has stood unrelenting against Ukraine and the European Union (EU). Within days he has upended the Joe Biden administration's support for NATO and Ukraine, and has been cozying up to Vladimir Putin. The new slogan: 'Peace' at any cost.

Donald Trump has never hidden his dislike for bearing Europe's and NATO's security costs. And his admiration for Putin is legend. But now it has all come to a head. Europe has, collectively and painfully, realized the US is no more a dependable ally; and it is time it pulls together to stand up as an independent power. In his machinations, Trump has inadvertently triggered a tectonic shift in the balance of power. What might emerge is Federal Europe as a new super power, something Trump may not have bargained for.

ZELENSKY AMBUSHED

A cascade of bullying events have brought us to where we are. Two weeks ago, on 19 February, the US called for talks with Russia in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on ending the Ukraine war. Ukraine and the EU were left gasping – they were not invited!

Then followed the infamous 28 February encounter at the White House where Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky was publicly shamed by Trump and J D Vance and booted out. His 'crime' – he insisted on security guarantees for a peace accord. It was a well-rehearsed ambush, and the Ukraine president fell for it.

Zelensky's 'disrespect' cost him big. Soon as he left,, the US administration paused military supplies to Ukraine; and after that came suspension of intelligence sharing. The twin blows were delivered to bring Zelensky back on the negotiating table on US' terms.

But events have shaped up differently from script. The UK and the rest of Europe have decided to stand up. Two days after being savaged in the White House, Zelensky was warmly hosted by UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer in London. The summit of 18 European nations convened by Starmer underlined containing Putin was vital to Europe's security. France and the UK both agreed to put troops on the ground to guarantee peace in case of a ceasefire.

MANDAR PARDIKAR

Starmer simultaneously put his money where his mouth announcing a military aid package for Ukraine that included $2 billion worth of missiles to shore up the country's air defenses.

The scene then shifted to Brussels, where an alarmed coalition of 27 European states decided it was time to rev up their defense spending. Fear of Russia got them to decide in a stroke to raise a humungous $160 billion to lend to those that needed shoring up their militaries.

Friedrich Merz, the conservative Chancellor-elect of Germany summed up the mood: the US, he said, was no more committed to Europe's security and there was a need to develop an alternative platform to NATO. Pledging to 'do whatever it takes', Merz is seeking a fresh $3.2 billion military budget. Meanwhile, Emmanuel Macron has stepped up to commit France's nuclear arsenal.

THE MINSK ACCORDS

The current crisis has to be seen in the context of creeping Russian expansion. Putin annexed Crimea in 2014 violating international law, and then launched an assault on the Donbas region of Ukraine with local proxy forces and Russian regulars. To stop the fighting, Ukraine, which was in retreat, signed two accords in Minsk, Belarus, in 2014-15, guaranteed by the European nations. The ceasefire agreements created a buffer zone, and mandated Russia withdraw its troops and equipment.

However, in the years preceding the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by Russia, Putin unilaterally tore up these accords, and established pro-Russian 'republics' in the Donbas region. Putin has always claimed Ukraine as Russian territory and denied its existence as a separate nation-state, even as he has continued to extend proxy control over former USSR states such as Georgia, Belarus and Chechnya.

It is this steady expansion westwards by Moscow that has alarmed the European nations. The sleepy post World War II NATO alliance, tasked with Europe's security, was thus forced to reboot when Russia marched into Ukraine in February 2022; and Finland and Sweden hurriedly dropped their 'neutral' status and sought protection under the NATO umbrella.

Western Europe, after the second world war, evolved along a social democratic path focused on reducing inequity and conservation of the environment. While the auto industry and other service sectors prospered and culture and fashion flowered, it was the US, which had military bases everywhere, that was left to look after security. With Donald Trump's accession, all these post-WWII arrangements are in tatters.

Europe now is in the cusp of shedding its non-militaristic past. It can no more afford to play second fiddle to the United States. Ukraine will be the testing point. Can the European alliance step into American shoes and shoulder the cost of stopping Russia and bankrolling Ukraine's war? As it is, the stocks of Europe's arms manufacturing companies are soaring. That tells a story that new power ratios are indeed emerging.

Only 7% women directors are non-promoters, says report

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE representation of women falls drastically as one moves up the corporate ladder, a report by PRIME Database shows. From 23% employees being women, the share of women dwindles down as we go up the hierarchy to 13% of Key Management Personnel (KMPs), 10% executive directors (EDs) and just 5% Managing Directors (MDs)/Chief Executive Officers (CEOs), showcasing the leaky bucket phenomena, says the report.

Women hold just 480 out of the 4,828 executive directorship positions, up marginally from 8% as on 31st March 2020. Just 5%, or 103 out of the 2,133 companies, have a woman MD/CEO, with barely any improvement over the last 5 years. There are 115 women MD/CEOs in these 103 companies of which 77 (or 67%) are from the promoter group itself showcasing the lack of "outside professional" women at the very top.

Outside professional executive women directors (non-promoters), as a whole, hold just 163 out of 2,344 such directorship positions (or 7%). Only 6%, or 123 out of the 2,133 companies, have a woman chairing the board. 57 out of these 123 chairpersons (or 46 per cent) are from the promoter group. According to Pranav Haldea, managing director, PRIME Database Group, while India has made significant progress on several parameters, there is still a long journey ahead as far as women representation at the top of the corporate hierarchy is concerned. Data from PRIME Database further shows that 97% of the 2,133 companies listed on NSE main board have at least one woman director on board as on 6 March 2025. Of the 57 companies which do not have a woman director, 26 are public sector undertakings (PSUs). The Companies Act, 2013 mandates that every listed company and any public company with a paid-up share capital of ₹100 crore or more, or a turnover of ₹300 crore or more, is required to appoint at least one woman director on its board.

As many as 2,687 women hold 3,479 directorship positions or 21% of the directorship positions, up from 17% as on March 31, 2020 and just 5% as on 31st March 2014 when the requirement to appoint one woman director on board had just been announced in February 2014.

Wide gap in remuneration

The median remuneration of male executive directors was **62% higher** at **₹114 lakh** in comparison to **₹71 lakh** for women.

The median remuneration of male non-promoter executive directors was **134% more** than for women with **₹93 lakh** for men as against **₹40 lakh** for women

The average of the median remuneration of male KMPs disclosed by the 1,155 companies was almost double that of women KMPs at **₹165 lakh** in comparison to **₹83 lakh** for women

The average of the median remuneration of male employees disclosed by the 1,155 companies was nearly 6 times that of women employees at **₹95 lakh** in comparison to just **₹17 lakh** for women

Women Independent Directors are being paid similar to their male counterparts with their median remuneration being **₹4.50 lakh**, almost same as the **₹4.60 lakh** for men

(all data for FY 24)

Gig workers urged to register on e-Shram

ENS ECONOMIC @ New Delhi

THE Ministry of Labour and Employment on Saturday said it has urged gig and platform workers to register on the e-Shram Portal for formal recognition and access to AB-PMJAY benefits.

The gig and platform economy is expanding, offering new jobs in sectors like ridesharing, delivery, logistics, and professional services, a ministry statement said. Niti Aayog has projected the gig economy in India will employ over 1 crore workers in 2024-25, subsequently reaching 2.35 crore by 2029-30, it added. The AB-PMJAY health scheme provides a cover of ₹5 lakh a family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation across over 31,000 public and private empanelled hospitals in India.

Banks must innovate to adapt to global landscape: FM

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Mumbai

BANKS must continue to innovate to sail through the changing global landscape, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Saturday.

She said the country's largest bank State Bank of India will embrace technology, sustainability and inclusivity as its guiding principles as it enters the diamond jubilee year. The world is changing rapidly, and the banking sector must continue to innovate to lead. I am confident that SBI will rise to the occasion, embracing technology, sustainability and inclusivity as its guiding principles," Sitharaman said while launching the platinum jubilee celebrations of SBI at its headquarters here on Saturday.

Noting that SBI is reinventing its personal distribution channels to align with evolving customer expectations, she said as the largest commercial bank, serving over 51 crore account holders, SBI has become more agile and competitive than ever before. In a separate event, Sitharaman said the GST rates will come down further and the work on rationalising tax rates and slabs has "almost reached a finale".

She said the revenue neutral rate (RNR) has come down from 15.8% at the time of the launch of GST on July 1, 2017, to 11.4% in 2023.

"It will come down further," the minister added. The GST Council, headed by Sitharaman and comprising her state counterparts, in September 2021, set up a group of ministers (GoM) to rationalise GST rates and suggest changes in slabs. The GoM comprises finance ministers of 6 states. Responding to a question at 'The Economic Times Awards' on whether it is time to rationalise rates and slabs, she said "that work has almost reached a finale".

Business & Beyond

Qutub Minar illuminated on Jan Aushadhi Diwas 2025

The 7th Jan Aushadhi Diwas 2025 was commemorated with a dual celebration, highlighting the importance of affordable and quality medicines. The historic Qutub Minar in New Delhi was illuminated with the theme of Jan Aushadhi Diwas 2025 from March 6th to 7th, 2025. This spectacular display, captured in photographs, will serve as a lasting reminder of the day's significance. Simultaneously, on the shores of Niladri Beach in Puri, Odisha, renowned sand artist Padma Sudarshan Patnaik created a magnificent sand sculpture. The artwork visually represented the theme "Dam Kam Dawai Uttam", captivating onlookers and reflecting the Prime Minister's vision for the accessible healthcare.

PNB celebrates International Women's Day

New Delhi: Reaffirming its commitment to fostering an inclusive and diverse work environment, Punjab National Bank (PNB), nation's leading public sector bank, celebrated International Women's Day at its corporate office in Dwarka, Delhi, and across its branches nationwide. Embracing the global theme 'Accelerate Action', the event highlighted Punjab National Bank's continued efforts in empowering women across all levels through financial inclusion, leadership development, and social responsibility initiatives. The celebration was graced by Chief Guest Dr. Sunita Godara, an eminent international athlete and marathon icon, whose inspiring journey served as a beacon of motivation for all attendees. Her presence reinforced the importance of resilience, perseverance, and the power of breaking barriers.

Union Bank of India, Chennai Region conducted MSME Mega Outreach program

Chennai: Union Bank of India, Chennai North Region conducted MSME Mega Outreach program at HPM Kalyana Mahal, Ambattur Industrial Estate, Chennai. The event was inaugurated by Arun Kumar, Chief General Manager, Central Office, Mumbai. Satyaban Behera, General Manager, Chennai Zone, R Muthu Rathinam, Regional Head, Chennai North Region & M.Jeyakumar, Dy Regional Head, Chennai North Region, were present at the meeting. Sreevatsan, Chief General Manager, National Small Industries Corporation, Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India also participated and explained about the initiatives of Government towards MSME growth. Detailed presentation about the MSME products of Union Bank of India given to the customers. Around 450 customers have participated in the event. An amount of ₹160.59 crore of loans were distributed to various beneficiaries in the programme. It is the fifth largest Bank in the country having more than 8500 branches.

41st annual conference of Indian Railway Health Services Association

Kolkata: 41st Annual Conference of Indian Railway Health Services Association/SER, 6th RAPICON and 1st RAALMCON was held at SER Central Hospital, Garden Reach, Kolkata from 27.02.2025 to 01.03.2025. The event was inaugurated on 28th February, 2025 by Dr. Man Singh, Director General, Railway Health Services, Railway Board in presence of Anil Kumar Mishra, General Manager, South Eastern Railway, Dr. Anjana Malhotra, Principal Chief Medical Director, South Eastern Railway, other distinguished guests and eminent Doctors from different zones of Indian Railways.

Railway Board decides on centralised CBT for promotions

A high level meeting was conducted by the Railway Board. It has been decided that all departmental promotion examinations will be done by RRB /centralised examination via CBT. All zonal railways will make a calendar for the examination. All examinations will be conducted on the basis of a calendar. This has been decided after a long experience of transparent, fair, and highly appreciated examinations conducted by RRB in recent years. The RRB has conducted examination without any complaints, with transparency : From 2015 to till date more than 7 crore candidates have been examined via CBT) without any paper leakage, impersonation, remote log-in, and use of spy devices.

Orleans Masters: Shuttler Ayush goes down in semis

ORLÉANS MASTERS BADMINTON

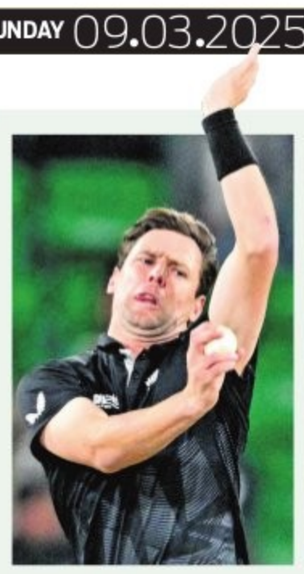
Shuttler Ayush Shetty's noteworthy run in the ongoing Orleans Masters — a BWF Super 300 tournament — in France came to an end on Saturday. The Indian lost (13-21, 15-21) his men's singles semifinal tie against Chinese Taipei's Chun-Yi Lin.

The final pitch

A look at some factors that could decide the fate of the title clash in Dubai on Sunday...

Ravindra, Williamson threat

Rising star Rachin Ravindra and old warhorse Kane Williamson come into the final fresh from centuries against South Africa in Lahore. The left-handed Ravindra and Williamson put together 164 runs in a match-winning stand in the semifinal and have the ability tackle the Indian spinners with aplomb. They will once again pose a serious threat to India on an expected sluggish pitch.



Henry's opening burst

Pace spearhead Matt Henry is a doubtful starter and if he misses out, it could be a mighty blow for New Zealand. He leads the bowling charts in the 50-over tournament with 10 wickets. Henry returned figures of 5-42, albeit in a losing cause against India earlier in the competition. His opening burst in the final could be vital for New Zealand in gaining the upper hand.

Chakravarthy's mystery spin

Wrist spinner Varun Chakravarthy was a late addition to the India squad and against bamboozled the Kiwis with figures of 5-42. That was his first match of the tournament and only his second ODI. The 33-year-old took another two wickets in the semifinal against Australia. Chakravarthy — if part of the XI — could be key to India's chances on pitches that have helped the spinners.

Rohit's start

India captain Rohit hasn't hit top gear, with his highest score being 41 in the opening win against Bangladesh. But even his scores of 20-plus in two matches — against Pakistan and Australia — have handed India quick starts for others to build on. Head coach Gautam Gambhir says his impact has been crucial and not driven by numbers.

Surface factor: The pitches at Dubai International Cricket Stadium have been a talking point with India playing all their matches at the same venue. The surface in Dubai has been sluggish and aided spinners with Australia posting the highest total in this tournament of 264, which was overhauled by India with 11 balls to spare.

India vs New Zealand, Dubai | Live on Star Sports and JioHotstar, 2.30 PM

Unstoppable force India meet the immovable object in NZ at CT summit match

WINNER TAKES ALL

GOMESH S @ Chennai

THIS is it. The final of the ICC Champions Trophy. After 18 days of engaging contests — both on and off the field — it all comes down to the 22 men in the middle when India take on New Zealand at the Dubai International Stadium on Sunday.

On paper, they have been the two best teams of the ongoing tournament. India, unbeaten, playing all their games at one venue, dominated right from the beginning. And New Zealand, whose only loss came against India in Dubai, have beaten all other teams they were put up against on their way to the summit clash.

However, going into this much-hyped final, India are clear favourites. And with good reason. They have been an indomitable team on the slowish Dubai pitches. Two of their top three — Shubman Gill and Virat Kohli — have smashed centuries under pressure. The rest of the middle-order —from Shreyas Iyer to KL Rahul to Axar Patel to Hardik Pandya — have chipped in with the bat in crunch situations, including in the semifinal against Australia. They have the most versatile and skilful spin attack featuring Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Varun Chakravarthy and Washington Sundar who can run through any batting line-up on a given day. These are individual factors. What makes India clear favourites is that this team — which is arguably one of the greatest one-day teams this country has fielded — seems indestructible when it comes to the 50-over format. What seems even more stupefying is that despite all the riches and exploits, even though it's considered even better than the 1983 or 2002 or 2011 or even 2013 teams, this bunch is yet to show an ICC silverware. The last time India won the Champions Trophy was when MS Dhoni wore the white blazer and lifted the trophy at Lord's 12 years ago. Some of the current players (Rohit, Kohli and Jadeja) were a part of that 2013 Champions Trophy winning team too.

For more than a decade, this team has dominated bilaterals and consistently reached semi-finals and finals but kept falling short at the final hurdle. The costliest and most heartbreaking one came on November 19, 2023, at the Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad. They had a dream run to the home ODI WC final, but on a slow surface, India got stuck.

India have learnt their lessons. This time, they are not going to take any chances. And it has shown in the way head coach Gautam Gambhir has persisted with the template he has put forth. They have been an unstoppable force all throughout the tournament but are coming up against an immovable object in New Zealand. India have spinners, New Zealand have Kane Williamson, Rachin Ravindra and Daryl Mitchell. They have Mitchell Santner who could be the biggest threat for India. What perhaps would give them a sigh of relief is the doubts cast over Matt Henry who has troubled Indian top-order batters consistently. If Australia had the power of Travis Head to counter India, New Zealand have the most skillful batting lineup when it comes to countering spin. What will be a challenge for them is to maintain the tempo without losing wickets at regular intervals. That and of course, toss, which has played a crucial role in the Dubai leg of the tournament. Sharma and Gambhir know enough to not take New Zealand lightly. They know their best is needed come Sunday to go all the way. "We still haven't played a perfect game. We still have one more game to go. Hopefully, we can play a perfect game. We want to keep improving, we want to stay humble, we want to be ruthless on the cricket field but absolutely humble off the field as well. So hopefully,y we can play one more game and play our best game," Gambhir said on Wednesday.

That is what it comes down to, playing the perfect game across 600 deliveries in over seven and a half hours in Dubai on Sunday. The winner takes all.

GILLSPEAK

HANDLING PRESSURE THE KEY

The big-match pressure is always there. The last time (2023) we couldn't do it, but we will try to do it this time. In a big match, the team that takes the pressure out of the equation has a better chance of winning. This is the reason why we talk about big teams of previous years including West Indies and Australia. Those teams played their best cricket in knockouts and used to take out pressure from the big-match equation. Easier said than done, but good teams play their best cricket under pressure. This is the best batting line up I am part of. Rohit is one of the best openers (in the world) and Virat, we need not tell about him. But our team has depth in batting and that allows the top order to bat with a bit more freedom. We have played 4 matches here and we have done really well. But I think the last time we played NZ, despite losing three wickets early, we played a good match and won comfortably. So I don't think there is any added discussion. There is no talk about retirement (of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli) in the dressing room, now

NZ 3, Ind 1

India have played New Zealand in four knockout matches of the ICC tournament so far, losing three of them. A look at the rivalry...

October 15, 2000, *ICC KnockOut Trophy final, NZ beat India by 4 wickets

July 9, 2019, ODI World Cup semifinal, NZ beat India by 18 runs

June 18-23, 2021, World Test Championship final, NZ beat India by 8 wickets

November 15, 2023, ODI World Cup semifinal, India beat NZ by 70 runs

**Started as ICC KnockOut Trophy in 1998 only to be renamed as Champions Trophy after two editions in 2002.*

Beth Mooney: One of the best in the world, by design

KALYANI MANGALE @ Chennai

Gujarat Giants' Beth Mooney in action during her 96 vs UP Warriorz in WPL | BCCI

THERE are not many players quite like Beth Mooney in women's cricket. One cannot put her in a box. Since the start of her career in early 2016, she has done what was required for Australia. Whether it was opening the batting with fellow left-hander Nicole Bolton at the start of her career in ODIs or dropping down the order once Australia decided to give Alyssa Healy a go at opening after the 2017 World Cup, Mooney has done it all. However, whatever role she has been asked to do, with the bat, in the field, or even behind the stumps, Mooney has excelled in that only she could.

Maybe it has all been by design and not just something that happened over time. Kirby Short, one of Mooney's close friends and her captain at Queensland Fire and Brisbane Heat, knows this better than anyone else. She remembers meeting the teenager walking into the Queensland setup. "The first time I met Beth, she was a teenager who had been brought into the QLD Fire set up by our coach, Andy Richards," she told this daily.

Despite proving herself as a genuine performer in the domestic setup and making it to the Australian squad, for almost two years, Mooney ran drinks as Australia won the 2014 T20 World Cup and retained the women's Ashes in 2015. She was part of the squad that had some of the best players in the world for specific roles. The presence of Meg Lanning, Alex Blackwell, Alyssa Healy and Jess Cameron meant Mooney had the slimmest of chances to make it the playing XI. It was only in January 2016 that the window of opportunity opened, and she made her international debut against India.

Short believes that the waiting game has played a role in making Mooney the player she is. A clear message from then head coach Matthew Mott to work on her fitness pushed the left-hander to be her absolute best. "Seems like a lifetime ago when she wasn't sure if she'd 'make it.' It was actually a big decision for her to stop studying and quit her part-time job at a grocery store and work hard, particularly on her fitness, to try and create an opportunity for herself. She flipped a switch during that period," Short added.

And Mooney's ability to contribute to the team's cause has always come in handy. Take, for example, her role in the T20Is for Australia. Her role is to stay in the middle for as long as possible and let players around her accelerate. If the players at the other end are struggling, her job is to keep the scoreboard ticking with her immaculate running between the wickets. The way she has added a number of shots in her arsenal over the years that no matter what stage of the game it is, it becomes really hard to bowl at her. That is one of the reasons why she has been the highest runscorer for Australia in the last three T20I World Cups.

And even after all of this, given the superstars in that Australian squad, Mooney does go under the radar. Short believes that is also by design. "She definitely likes flying under the radar; it suits her personality! Given her extensive skill set, she's able to play multiple roles, which makes her valuable for the team she's in. Added to that, she enjoys the challenge of getting better and evolving her game. Ultimately, she just wants to contribute to and feel valued by any team she is in," Short mentioned.

Mooney's fitness, ability to play the role she is required to for the team and a complete mastery over her skills were on full display in the women's Ashes when she not only took over wicketkeeping duties from captain Healy but also scored 409 runs across seven innings, the most by any in the multi-format series, including a century in Test at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground. With that, she became the first Australian woman to score centuries in all three formats.

Saturday's result: UP 225/5 in 20 ovs (Voll 99*; Wareham 2/43) bt RCB 213 in 19.3 ovs (Ghosh 69; Ecclestone 3/25)

Full story: newindianexpress.com

RO named, ex-sports minister's name doing rounds for BFI polls

INDRANEEL DAS @ Chennai

OF late, National Sports Federation (NSF) elections have turned more dramatic and intriguing. The top post has suddenly become highly attractive. The latest NSF to declare elections is the Boxing Federation of India (BFI), a body that had to go to high court to stay an ad hoc committee formed by the IOA.

The current BFI president, Ajay Singh, is expecting to get re-elected but that will also depend on what the other members think. Especially after the tussle of power between members on the sidelines of the National Games in Uttarakhand. According to a Delhi High Court order, any office-bearer seeking re-election needs two-third majority. If he manages the votes, it will be a big victory for him. As the last day, March 10, to send names for electoral roll looms, the names floating around for the post of presidentship is getting interesting. The name of a former sports minister is also doing the rounds. Some of the senior BFI members have apparently approached the former sports minister and the name could be finalised before March 10. It needs to be seen if the minister agrees to head BFI. If the former minister steps in, elections will certainly spice up. The name has to be recommended by a bonafide BFI unit to be part of the electoral roll. Even as Singh is trying to gather his supporters around him, the BFI has announced the name of the returning officer (RO). According to a letter from the BFI executive director, former Delhi High Court judge RK Gauba has been named as the RO. Interestingly, the BFI has also sent another letter to all its member units laying down rules to nominate/authorize members for electoral roll.

According to the letter, "only bonafide and duly elected members during the election AGM (duly notified to BFI) of the State Units affiliated with the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) shall be authorised to represent their respective States/Union Territories".

The letter also states that "all submissions must include the designation of the authorised representative within the respective organisation, along with an official confirmation from the State Unit."

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Griekspoor overcomes top seed Zverev

AGENCIES @ Indian Wells (USA)

TALLON Griekspoor stunned top-seeded Alexander Zverev 4-6, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (4) in the second round at Indian Wells on Friday, avenging a devastating loss to the German at Roland Garros last year.

Zverev, the World No 2 who is heading the field of the prestigious ATP Masters event with No. 1 Jannik Sinner serving a three-month drugs ban, is the first Indian Wells men's top seed to lose his opening match since Andy Murray in 2017.

It was a cherished win for Griekspoor, who had lost five straight matches — including four last year — to the German. That included a five-setter at the French Open in which Griekspoor was up a double break in the fifth in a defeat he called "absolute heartbreak".

American Marcos Giron joined Griekspoor in posting his first win over a top-five player, upsetting fourth seed Casper Ruud 7-6 (4), 3-6, 6-2.

Russian Daniil Medvedev moved on with a 6-2, 6-2 victory over 71st-ranked Bu Yunchaokete of China.

Swiatek safely through

Iga Swiatek, the women's defending champion in this combined ATP and WTA 1000 event, eased through her opener 6-2, 6-0 against French veteran Caroline Garcia.

NorthEast post emphatic win in last league outing

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

NorthEast's Nestor Albiach (L) celebrates his goal on Saturday | ISL

NORTHEAST United climbed to third position in the Indian Super League points table with a 4-0 victory of East Bengal at the Indira Gandhi Stadium in Shillong on Saturday. This was the eighth match where NorthEast scored three or more goals this season, and also got their first-ever ISL win in Shillong.

After a goalless opening half, NorthEast finally broke the deadlock in the hour mark before adding three more goals to their tally. Striker Alaaeddine Ajaraie has been operating at a different level this season and he was once again the key performer of the match for The Highlanders. Ajaraie was involved in the build-up play for the opening goal that was scored by Nestor Albiach. Barely a few minutes, he found the back of the net to double NorthEast's lead before adding the third goal from the penalty spot. That was incidentally his 23rd and 24th strike of the ongoing ISL season and he sits atop the standings in the race for Golden Boot. Things turned bad to worse for East Bengal as they were reduced to 10 men after Tanmay Das was given the marching orders (second yellow card) in the 83rd minute or so. Mohammed Bemammer made the advantage count by scoring the fourth goal of the contest for the home side.

In the second match of the day, Shield winners Mohun Bagan Super Giant got the better of FC Goa 2-0.

EXPRESS READ

Ticket sale for PBKS's home tie to go live on March 9

CHANDIGARH: Punjab Kings have announced the release of the tickets for their first home match against Rajasthan Royals in the IPL. The tickets will go live at 1:00 pm on March 9 (Sunday) in different phases. The fans can purchase them through the District app and website (https://www.district.in/events/ipl-ticket-booking).

Champs defend title, young Indians make mark

MANGALURU: The second day of the International SUP Championship saw thrilling battles across all categories. In the APP distance race (10 km), Spain's defending champs proved unstoppable, with Esperanza Barreras reclaiming her women's title while Antonio Morillo dominated the men's category. India's young paddlers also impressed.

FOOTBALL

Liverpool fight back to go 16 points clear, Man City lose

AGENCIES @ Nottingham

LIVERPOOL survived a scare from Southampton as Mohamed Salah and Darwin Nunez inspired the fightback in a 3-1 win that lifted the Premier League leaders 16 points clear at the top on Saturday.

Arne Slot's side were rocked by Will Smallbone's first half opener for bottom of the table Southampton at Anfield. But Liverpool recovered their composure after half-time and Nunez equalised before earning the penalty that Salah converted to put them ahead

Salah netted another penalty to reach 32 goals in all competitions this season as the Reds edged closer to a record-equalling 20th English title and their first since 2020. Second-placed Arsenal have two games in hand on Arsenal, including Sunday's trip to Manchester United. But Liverpool's relentless march to the title looks unstoppable no matter how the Gunners fare in the final weeks of what is shaping up to be a dream first season for Slot.

Earlier, Nottingham Forest dealt a major blow to Manchester City's bid to qualify for the Champions League as Callum Hudson-Odoi's late winner sealed a 1-0 victory in the top four shoot-out. **Results:** Brighton **2-1** Fulham; Palace **1-0** Ipswich; Liverpool **3-1** Southampton; Nottm Forest **1-0** Man City.

Mo Salah (R) is leading the race for the Golden Boot in EPL with 27 goals | AP

SOME OF THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED WHO EXCELLED IN THE JUDICIARY

Zak Mohd Yacoob

Lost his sight at 16 months due to meningitis, served as a judge on the South African Constitutional Court from 1998 to 2013. Despite his blindness, he effectively discharged his judicial duties with the aid of a legally trained assistant, a computer, a braille printer, and a note-taker. While acknowledging that reading case materials took longer, he firmly rejected the misconception that blind individuals are incapable of assessing critical evidence, such as charts, maps, or witness demeanour. He argued that the belief that one must "see" a witness to assess credibility was unfounded. In his tenure, Justice Yacoob advocated for constitutional protection of differently-abled individuals, stressing the need for equality and accessibility equality within the justice system.

Yetnebersh Nigussie

An Ethiopian lawyer and disability rights activist, attributes her ability to pursue a legal career to the loss of her eyesight at the age of five, an event she considers to have spared her from child marriage. She dedicated herself to using education as a tool to empower persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls, who often face compounded discrimination. She emphasizes that genuine inclusion requires changing societal mindsets and providing tangible facilities to ensure access to education and healthcare. Arguing that no form of discrimination should be tolerated, she stresses the importance of adopting a holistic approach to human rights, reinforcing the principle that all individuals, irrespective of gender or disability, deserve equal opportunities.

David Lepofsky

A distinguished Canadian lawyer, has argued over 30 cases before the Supreme Court of Canada. Acknowledged as one of Canada's most influential lawyers, he leveraged technological advancements to enhance his legal practice. Previously reliant on volunteers to read trial transcripts, he now accesses case materials digitally through screen readers and cloud-platforms, allowing him to work from anywhere. Despite the inherent challenges, Lepofsky remains committed to ensuring litigants get their rightful entitlements, demonstrating perseverance and self-reliance in overcoming professional barriers.

S K Rungta

Conferred with the position of Senior Advocate by the Delhi High Court in 2011, he dedicated his career to breaking down barriers for the differently-abled. Initially reliant on clerks for mobility and legal filings, he has cut his dependence with the advent of assistive technology. While he encountered skepticism from some judges regarding his capabilities, he asserts that the judiciary has largely been supportive. His contributions have been instrumental from facilitating entry of the blind into the civil services to enforcing disability reservations under Indian law, securing rights of blind to serve as witnesses, and shaping India's disability legislation - The Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995.

Ronald M Gould

On the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, he has progressive multiple sclerosis. Gould underscores the significance of legal protections such as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in ensuring that reasonable accommodations are not a matter of discretion but a legally enforceable right. He advocates for systemic reforms that balance accessibility with professional excellence, emphasising that disabled individuals should not be viewed through the lens of charity but as professionals capable of delivering high-quality legal work when provided with appropriate accommodations.

Jack Chen

A blind patent attorney at Google, he highlighted that the primary challenge for visually impaired lawyers is not completing legal tasks but doing so with efficiency. Tasks such as legal drafting and formatting, particularly those requiring adherence to citation standards like the Bluebook, demand significantly more time. He noted that while blind professionals may take longer in certain tasks, they often outperform their sighted peers in others, particularly in reading speed when using screen readers. His success exemplifies the capacity of blind legal professionals to adapt and excel in highly technical fields through the strategic use of assistive technology.

Tomer Rosner

A blind legal advisor to the Israeli Parliament, Rosenr plays a crucial role in drafting and analysing legislation concerning disability rights. Given the extensive volume of legal documents he must review, he employs screen readers and optical character recognition (OCR) technology to access text that is otherwise inaccessible. Despite these technological aids, there remain instances where he relies on personal readers. He acknowledges the challenges inherent in his profession but maintains that with the effective use of technology and adaptive strategies, legal professionals with disabilities can manage their responsibilities with competence and efficiency.

David S Tatel

A judge on the US Court of Appeals for Columbia, Tatel adapted to his blindness by employing law clerks and a reader. Though less adept with modern technology, he relied on a braille keyboard. He asserted that blindness does not limit a lawyer's ability to argue cases effectively. Rejecting the imposition of low expectations on blind professionals, he preferred to be recognised as a "judge who happens to be blind" rather than a "blind judge" reinforcing the principle that competence in the legal profession is not diminished by disability.

Haben Girma

The first deafblind graduate of Harvard Law School, Girma established herself as an influential accessibility consultant, working to remove barriers that hinder professionals with disabilities. She engages with legal materials using screen readers, braille displays, and notetaking support. Highlighting the challenges faced by blind legal professionals in accessing visual information, she emphasizes the need for institutions to provide alternative formats, such as text descriptions or tactile graphics. She underscores that access to legal work is not just about individual effort but also about systemic responsibility, urging legal institutions to proactively adopt inclusive practices that ensure equal participation for professionals with disabilities.

Nirmita Narasimhan

A visually impaired lawyer and policy director at the Centre for Internet and Society, Nirmita has been instrumental in advancing digital accessibility and policy reforms. A law graduate from Delhi University with additional degrees in German and Music, she played a key role in drafting India's National Policy on Universal Electronic Accessibility and worked extensively with government agencies to integrate accessibility into public programmes. Recognised with multiple awards, including the National Award for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (2010), she stresses that addressing systemic hurdles rather than focusing solely on disability would indirectly lead to more effective accessibility reforms.

Inclusivity, equality basis of Indian Constitution

"If there is one principle that forms part of the bedrock of the Constitution, it is 'inclusivity' on which also rests the doctrine of equality," Justices J B Pardiwala and R Mahadevan observed

NEW ERA FOR DISABILITY RIGHTS IN INDIA

A look at how the Supreme Court championed disability rights in its March 3 order, declaring visually impaired candidates eligible for judicial services and striking down discriminatory rules

MANISH KUMAR @Chennai

"OUR Constitution is color-blind, and neither knows nor tolerates classes among citizens. In respect of civil rights, all citizens are equal before the law." This prophetic dissenting opinion of Justice John Marshall Harlan in Plessy versus Ferguson (1896) in the US captures the spirit of the landmark verdict of the Supreme Court of India for disability rights on March 3. The court quashed a rule of the Madhya Pradesh judicial services that disallowed visually impaired and low-vision candidates from seeking appointment to judicial services. "It is high time that we view the right against disability-based discrimination, as recognised in the RPwD Act (Right of Persons with Disabilities Act), 2016, in the same stature as a fundamental right, thereby ensuring that no candidate is denied consideration solely on account of their disability," the Supreme Court said.

Background and appeals

A two-judge bench of justices R Mahadevan and J B Pardiwala pronounced the judgment on a batch of petitions dealing with certain provisions of the Madhya Pradesh Judicial Service Examination (Recruitment and Conditions of Service) Rules, 1994, and seeking amendments to the Rajasthan Judicial Service Rules, 2010, to bring them in accordance with the RPwD Act.

The case was filed by both visually impaired and disabled candidates who were denied job opportunities in the judicial services due to discriminatory provisions in the Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan judicial services rules. The petitioners argued that these provisions violated their fundamental rights, including their rights to equality and dignity.

The court also took suo motu cognizance of a letter petition on Dec 15, 2024, to the then CJI by the mother of a visually impaired judicial aspirant, challenging the legality of the amended Madhya Pradesh Judicial Service Examination (Recruitment and Conditions of Service) Rules 1994, whose Rule 6A excludes the visually impaired and low-vision candidates from appointment in judicial services. According to the petitioner, the action of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, which rejected a challenge to Rule 7 that does not grant specific exemptions to the disabled, is arbitrary, discriminatory, unjust and violative of the spirit of the Constitution.

A similar letter petition was sent by a visually impaired law student from Rajasthan to the then CJI requesting action for transparency, fairness and equal opportunity for persons with disabilities in judicial service exams in the state. The petitioners prayed for a direction to the Rajasthan High Court to publish separately and declare the results and cut-off marks for persons with benchmark disabilities in the Rajasthan Judicial Service Examinations at every stage viz., Preliminary, Mains, Interviews and the final result.

The verdict

The court said a rights-based approach necessitates that PwDs must not face any discrimination. Instead, there must be affirmative action on behalf of the state to provide an inclusive framework. Justice Mahadevan cited cases of exemplary achievements of distinguished individuals in the legal profession, who have demonstrated that visual impairment is no barrier to attaining professional excellence, competing on equal footing and making significant contributions to the justice delivery system alongside their able-bodied counterparts. Holding that the right against disability-based discrimination, as recognised in the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, should be viewed as a fundamental right, the court said no candidate should be denied consideration for employment solely on account of their disability.

The bench ruled that visually impaired candidates cannot be said to be 'not suitable' for judicial service. It struck down the amendment made in Rule 6A of the Madhya Pradesh Judicial Service (Recruitment and Conditions of Service) Rules, 1994 to the extent that it does not include impaired persons who are educationally qualified for the post.

The court also struck down Rule 7 of the 1994 rules to the extent of prescribing additional requirements of either a three-year practice period or securing an aggregate score of 70% in the first attempt, insofar as it applies to a PwD candidate.

Further, the court ruled that a separate cut-off has to be maintained and selection made for visually-impaired candidates in line with the judgment in Indra Sawhney v. Union of India, where a seven-judge bench proposed reservation of PwD candidates in public employment, and for relaxation of qualifying marks as affirmative action in their favour.

Reasonable accommodation

The court highlighted the importance of reasonable accommodation in ensuring equal opportunities for persons with disabilities. The principle, as enshrined in international conventions and established jurisprudence, mandates that accommodations be provided to persons with disabilities as a prerequisite to assessing their eligibility. It held that the principle that reasonable accommodation is not a discretionary measure but a fundamental right integral to achieving substantive equality for PwD, forms part of the right to dignity as guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution.

Implications of the judgment

The judgment has far-reaching implications for disability rights in India and is a significant step forward. It paves the way for visually impaired candidates to participate in judicial services, and sets a precedent for other disability rights cases. It recognises the fundamental right of persons with disabilities to equal opportunities and non-discrimination. As India continues to strive towards an equitable society, this judgment serves as a reminder of the importance of protecting rights of all citizens, regardless of abilities.

Why draft Advocates (Amendment) Bill, 2025 had to be withdrawn

THE recent introduction and withdrawal of the Advocates (Amendment) Bill, 2025 came as a bitter pill for the government. It had several provisions that raised concerns within the legal community on the potential curtailment of advocates' freedoms and the autonomy of legal institutions. The draft bill was also seen as an attempt to erode the freedom of the judiciary. Let's examine the proposed amendments.

Govt nominees in BCI

One of the most contentious provisions was the introduction of Section 4(1)(d), which permits the Central government to nominate up to three members to the Bar Council of India (BCI). The BCI opposed it, arguing that it has historically functioned as a democratically elected body representing 27 lakh advocates. Since government appointees would seriously alter the independent character of the legal profession, the BCI rightly requested the complete deletion of the provision.

Foreign lawyer regulation

The draft bill proposed transferring the regulatory authority over foreign lawyers and law firms from the BCI to the Central government. It aimed to override BCI's 2022 regulations, which had established a framework for foreign legal entities, requiring BCI oversight with Central government approval. The legal fraternity feels that the Centre taking over the oversight role could lead to uncertainty regarding compliance and regulatory enforcement.

Govt directions to BCI

Section 49B of the proposed bill grants the Central government the power to issue binding directions to the BCI. Such a provision is unprecedented and could allow government intervention in the Bar Council's decisions, affecting disciplinary proceedings, enrollment policies, and legal education governance. The BCI demanded the deletion of this section.

Enrollment, eligibility and fees

The draft bill modified Section 24 by removing the fixed enrollment fee structure and transferring the power to determine fees to the Central government. This could lead to arbitrary fee changes, creating uncertainty for new law graduates seeking enrollment. The BCI rightly requested that the original enrollment fee provisions be restored.

Definition of "legal practitioner"

The BCI had proposed a definition for the term "legal practitioner" under Section 2(i) to ensure that all legal professionals, including those engaged in corporate advisory roles or tribunals, fall within the purview of the Advocates Act. However, the government's draft alters this definition, which the BCI argued could lead to unregulated legal practice by non-lawyers. The Council sought the reinstatement of its originally proposed definition.

Automatic disqualification of advocates facing conviction

Under Section 24B, the bill mandates the automatic removal of an advocate's name from a state's rolls if convicted of an offence with a sentence of three or more years. The BCI opposed it, arguing that the threshold should be raised to seven years. Another objectionable provision prohibits advocates facing trial from contesting Bar Council elections. It violates the principle of "innocent until proven guilty."

HARIS BEERAN
The author is a member of the Rajya Sabha and Supreme Court lawyer

Criminalisation of strikes and boycotts

The bill criminalises strikes and boycotts by advocates, classifying them as misconduct under Section 26(c) and (d). Advocates have historically used strikes to protest judicial inefficiencies and legal system challenges. The existing laws, such as the Contempt of Courts Act, already address disruptions to court proceedings.

Welfare provisions for lawyers axed

The bill omits key welfare provisions related to advocate protection laws, pension schemes and healthcare benefits. The BCI had earlier proposed a new chapter on "Advocates' Protection and Rights", which has not been included in the final draft. It is no secret that lawyers face increasing security threats. Removing welfare protections could negatively impact the profession.

The intent and meaning of the bill

While the government claimed that the bill aimed to modernise legal practice, it can be argued that the intent was to centralise power, suppress dissent, and weaken the profession's ability to challenge the state. The expansion of the legal profession's definition was portrayed as a progressive measure, but in reality, it allowed the entry of politically and corporate-connected individuals into legal advocacy, potentially compromising judicial integrity. Similarly, the ban on strikes was justified as a way to prevent disruptions in the judicial process, but in reality, it was a strategy to curb legal resistance against government policies.

Additionally, the bill raised serious concerns about the principle of separation of powers. By introducing provisions that allow increased executive influence over the legal profession, the amendment indirectly encroaches upon judicial independence. A judiciary that is not free from external pressures, particularly those exerted by the executive, risks becoming an instrument of the state rather than an impartial arbiter of justice. This not only weakens the checks and balances essential for a functioning democracy but also threatens the very essence of the rule of law. Any attempt to dilute judicial autonomy strikes at the heart of the basic structure doctrine, which safeguards the independence of the judiciary as a non-negotiable pillar of Indian democracy.

Tillage Organics

In Pursuance to the order No 2900 (E) dated 24th October 2015, issued by Department of Agriculture, Co-operation and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India. Tillage Organics hereby notifies that it intends to introduce and sell commercially its new 100 percent Water soluble mixture of fertilizers as per the specifications given below:

LIST OF THE PRODUCTS

S.No.	NAME OF THE FERTILIZERS	BRAND NAME	S.No.	NAME OF THE FERTILIZERS	BRAND NAME
1	13:40:13+TE	NUTRITILL RICH SOL	32	0.10.40+TE	NUTRITILL 0.10.40+TE
2	30.10.10	NUTRITILL 30. 10. 10	33	10.05.36	NUTRITILL 10.05.36
3	10:54:10+TE	NUTRITILL WINSOL	34	15:5:10+Ca+Mg+S+TE	NUTRITILL TOTALLY
4	05:05:40+TE	NUTRITILL 05:05:40+TE	35	17.14.09	NUTRITILL 17.14.09
5	00.00.50	FERTILL 00.00.50	36	13.12.19	NUTRITILL 13.12.19
6	19.19.19	FERTILL 19. 19. 19	37	09:08:28+TE	NUTRITILL 09:08:28+TE
7	12.61.00	FERTILL 12.61.00	38	1.36.24	NUTRITILL 1.36.24
8	13:00:45	FERTILL 13:00:45	39	08:24:24+4Mg+6S	NUTRITILL 08:24:24+4Mg+6S
9	00:52:34,	FERTILL 00:52:34	40	16.11.32	NUTRITILL 16.11.32
10	17:44:00	FERTILL 17:44:00	41	21:12:16+2S	NUTRITILL 21:12:16+2S
11	00:38:22+TE	NUTRITILL 00:38:22+TE	42	14:05:32+2S	NUTRITILL 14:05:32+2S
12	00:24:36+TE	NUTRITILL 00:24:36+TE	43	13:05:37+3Cao	NUTRITILL 13:05:37+3Cao
13	00:41:26+TE	NUTRITILL 00:41:26+TE	44	15.15.30	NUTRITILL 15.15.30
14	15:0:10+TE	NUTRITILL 15:0:10+TE	45	12:06:22+12Cao	NUTRITILL 12:06:22+12Cao
15	05:00:30+MG+S	NUTRITILL 05:00:30+Mg+S	46	15.25.10	NUTRITILL 15.25.10
16	00:60:20,	NUTRITILL 00:60:20	47	09:27:18+7.5S+TE	NUTRITILL 09:27:18+7.5S+TE
17	0:44:44+TE	NUTRITILL HYKESOL	48	15:25:10+0.1 B+8S	NUTRITILL 15:25:10+0.1 B+8S
18	5.45.5	NUTRITILL 5.45.5	49	20.16.17	NUTRITILL 20.16.17
19	18:46:0+TE	NUTRITILL DAP-SOL	50	11.18.23	NUTRITILL 11.18.23
20	12:11:18+TE	NUTRITILL MILAN	51	12.00.38	NUTRITILL 12.00.38
21	1.52.00+TE	NUTRITILL 1.52.00+TE	52	27.14.08	NUTRITILL 27.14.08
22	32.05.15+TE	NUTRITILL 32.05.15+TE	53	15.40.05	NUTRITILL 15.40.05
23	21.36.12+TE	NUTRITILL 21.36.12+TE	54	17.00.32	NUTRITILL 17.00.32
24	12:12:36+TE	NUTRITILL 12:12:36+TE	55	8.20.16	NUTRITILL 8.20.16
25	15.15.30+TE	NUTRITILL 15.15.30+TE	56	22.05.18	NUTRITILL 22.05.18
26	05.05.45+TE	NUTRITILL 05.05.45+TE	57	5.05.30	NUTRITILL 5.05.30
27	20:20:20+TE	NUTRITILL UNISOL	58	8.21.21	NUTRITILL 8.21.21
28	40.10.10+TE	NUTRITILL 40.10.10+TE	59	5.45.5	NUTRITILL 5.45.5
29	15.65.00+TE	NUTRITILL 15.65.00+TE	60	8.06.38	NUTRITILL 8.06.38
30	20.50.10+TE	NUTRITILL 20.50.10+TE	61	28.28.00	NUTRITILL 28.28.00
31	15.30.15+TE	NUTRITILL 15.30.15+TE	62	24.24.00	NUTRITILL 24.24.00

In all the grades mentioned above, (a) Moisture is Maximum 0.5 percent (by weight); (b) Total Chloride is less than 0.5 percent (by weight); (c) Matter insoluble in water is less than 0.5 per cent (by weight); (d) Lead is less than 0.003 per cent (by weight); (e) Cadmium is less than 0.0025 percent (by weight); (f) Arsenic is less than 0.00 percent(by weight).

Tillage Oragnics

Tillage Organics, Plot no 10 and 12, Survey no 109, road no 4, Quthpally industrial area, Medchal District, Telangana, 500090